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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 102

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2008

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OPINION METER

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Where should the governor deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address this year?

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Sara Market II

In celebration of its 18th year in business, Sara Market II is offering the lowest prices on island—bar none.

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Iraq Mayhem

Errant mortar shells slammed into houses and a funeral tent, leaving three children among the dead.

WORLD...Page 27



Nude Daniel

Daniel Radcliffe, the star of the "Harry Potter" movies, will make his Broadway debut in September.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 36

Pending homestead applications now at 3,878. **PAGE 3**
Budget woes scuttle NMI participation in FestPac. **PAGE 7**

Census shows poorer NMI

Economy, debt weighing on nation's middle class

By HOPE YEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—More and more middle-class Americans say they aren't better off than they were five years ago, reflecting economic pressures amid growing personal debt, a study released Wednesday found.

Their short-term assessment of personal progress, according to the study, is the worst it's been in nearly half a century.

The survey by the Pew Research Center, a Washington-based organization, paints a mixed picture for the 53 percent of adults in the country who define themselves as "middle class," with household incomes

ON THE NET

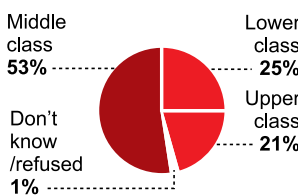
Pew Research Center: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/>

See **ECONOMY** on Page 4

Most say it's difficult in the middle

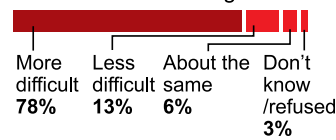
Most members of the middle class say they are worse off than they were five years ago. Fifty-three percent of Americans define themselves as middle class.

Americans who identify themselves as ...

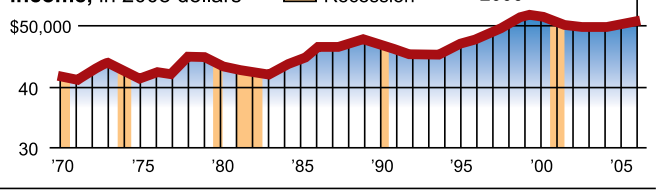


Among the middle class ...

Compares with five years ago, is it more or less difficult for middle-class people to maintain their standard of living?



Median household income, in 2008 dollars



SOURCES: Census Bureau; Pew Research Center

- Average per capita income down to \$6,178
- Average household income down to \$25,172
- Unemployment up 8 percent
- Total population down to 65,927

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The average income each person makes in the Northern Marianas dropped by a third between 2000 and 2004, according to a census report released yesterday.

See **CENSUS** on Page 4

Shell hikes prices anew

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR

Gas prices on the island are fast closing in on the \$5 a gallon mark, after Shell Marianas Inc. announced another round of price increases yesterday.

Shell said that record high fuel prices prompted it to increase the pump prices of its gasoline products by six cents a gallon, effective today. Diesel prices will also go up at a much steeper 10 cents a gallon.

As such, regular self-service gasoline

See **SHELL** on Page 4

Orsini heads to nat'l Geography Bee

I cannot explain it. I'm not nervous really, I'm more excited than nervous.

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vinni Orsini, an 8th grade student at Grace Christian Academy, scored the highest in the Geography Bee written examination, making him the representative of the Pacific Territories to the National Geography Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

Orsini topped school-level students from the CNMI, Guam and American Samoa. This is

the second time in GCA history that a student from the school will vie for the school-level geography bee in D.C.

According to GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa, the last GCA student to participate in the geography bee at the state capital was Rolando Dans Jr., which was over 10 years ago.

Orsini said he was beyond ecstatic upon learning of his victory.

"I cannot explain it. I'm not

See **ORSINI** on Page 4



Grace Christian Academy's Vinni Orsini during the recently held Junior High Mock Trial at the U.S. District Court in Garapan.

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Local

'Sponsorship schemes' on the rise, says Labor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The closure of many garment factories and other establishments has resulted in more alien workers engaging in sponsorship schemes.

"We are seeing sponsorship issues left to right," Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune*.

San Nicolas said that since being appointed Labor Secretary under the Fitial administration, the department has been continuously investigating sponsorship schemes.

"We will continue to investigate any allegations or information that come regarding sponsorship and deal with them in a proper manner," he said.

Since January 2008, six garment factories have already closed, affecting close to a thousand workers. The closure of garment manufacturer Kyungseung (Saipan) Inc. this May 24 will render jobless about 141 more alien workers and 13 resident workers.

Aside from the closures of

many garment factories, San Nicolas said they have received information that because other jobless employees are desperate to find employers, they would ask just about anyone who can hire them—not necessarily for employment but as it is, as a sponsor.

"But again I cannot emphasize enough that as far as the Department of Labor is concerned, sponsorship does not exist. We've been emphasizing this many, many times," he said.

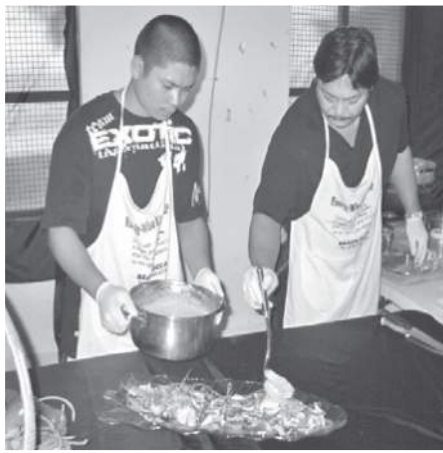
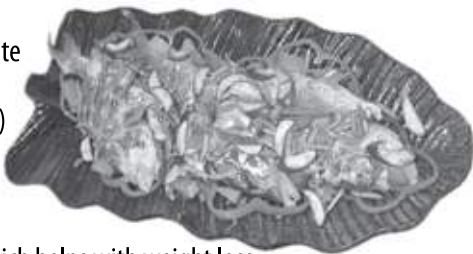
Under the sponsorship, San Nicolas said, desperate employees are just trying to remain in the Commonwealth but not for employment reasons.

"That has to be stopped. And we encourage legitimate employers to hire employees because they need workers and not to legalize their stay on the islands or for other purpose," he added.

Sponsorships refer to the purported hiring of alien workers, not necessarily to employ them but in exchange for cash, just so the alien worker can continue his or her stay in the CNMI. This is illegal.

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Pending applications for homesteads reach 3,878

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

There are 3,878 homestead applications that are still on the waiting list at the Department of Public Lands, some of them dating back to the early '80s.

DPL homestead director Manny Rabauliman said the issuance of homestead lots to those pending applications had been stalled due to the lack of available public lands.

"If you look at the number of pending applications, it's obvious that we cannot house that many people," Rabauliman said.

Each homestead applicant who

is granted a homestead lot is given 1,000 square meters worth of land.

The homestead program is on a first-come, first-served basis. The last homesteader issued a lot was in 2007 and it was given to an applicant who had applied for it in the early '80s.

According to Rabauliman, two years ago a moratorium was put in place to hold off entertaining new homestead applications until the program accommodates the already pending applications.

"You can go ahead and still apply for homestead, but your chances of being issued a lot is very slim. Your application will be on hold until the governor

decides to lift the moratorium," Rabauliman said.

He said one area that DPL is looking at for homestead lots is the Marpi village area.

He said is difficult to estimate how many acres of public land is available for homesteads because "even if we have 500 acres available, we still have to consider the placement of roads and other basic infrastructure required by the DEQ [Division of Environmental Quality]."

Some of the major requirements to qualify for the homestead program in the CNMI is to be at least 18 years of age and be a Northern Marianas descent.

Terminated employee is arrested for alleged theft of flight ticket payment

A Mita Travel Agency employee who was terminated for misappropriation of company funds last month was arrested yesterday after the company found out that she also allegedly stole \$948.50 paid by a customer for an airline ticket.

Police arrested Susan Sula Pascua at the Saipan International Airport on charges of theft, theft by deception, and theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received.

Pascua, 46, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing. Associate Judge David Wiseman set a \$5,000 bail and \$4,500 property bond for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Arraignment was set for April 21 at 9am.

A detective stated in his report that Mita Travel terminated Pascua on March 13 for alleged misappropriation of company funds.

On Wednesday, Mita Travel sought police's help after learning that the terminated employee also stole money from the company, possibly on Feb. 25.

The detective said that on Wednesday, a Mita Travel employee had explained that customer Mohammed Nihar had

gone to the agency on Feb. 25 to purchase an airline ticket to Bangladesh in the amount of \$948.50.

When Nihar went to Mita Travel to pick up his ticket on Wednesday, the agency discovered through their computer records that, although the customer paid for the ticket in the morning, the ticket was canceled in the afternoon.

Records show that it was Pascua who made the travel arrangements and also canceled them.

Nihar then presented a copy of the invoice that Mita Travel would usually attach a receipt to.

Nihar had thought at the time that the invoice was his receipt.

On that day, Feb. 25, Pascua turned in one receipt to the company in the amount of \$75.

When Mita Travel Agency owner Juan Pan Guerrero was informed about Nihar's case, the defendant was called to explain.

Pascua went to the office and claimed that the money should be on the records.

When told that there was no record, the defendant said she would pay the customer through a personal check.

Guerrero refused to accept

a personal check. Pascua then asked if she could instead pay using a credit card.

Pascua, however, stated that the credit card belongs to a friend. Guerrero refused to accept the credit card.

The defendant left the office and promised to return.

Three Mita Travel employees told police that Pascua later admitted to them she took the money to pay other customers.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

"I love going to Marianas Eye Institute"



I love going to Marianas Eye Institute. It's fun! Everybody is so friendly and Dr. Mark makes me laugh with his jokes. My mommy brings me and my sisters to Marianas Eye Institute because she wants us to have the best eye care possible.

Maddie Santos – age 8



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Villagomez urges all to 'Take the Right Route'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an effort to promote carbon reduction, Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez is urging government employees to participate in today's "Take the Right Route" by walking, running, or carpooling to work or school.

"As a community, we should take action now to reduce our carbon footprint,

and do our part to protect the CNMI's natural resources," Villagomez said.

The carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases emitted over the full life cycle of a product or service.

Normally, a carbon footprint is expressed as a CO2 equivalent, which is usually in kilograms or tons. It accounts for the same global warming effects of different greenhouse gases.

Carbon footprints can be calculated using a Life Cycle Assessment method, or can be restricted to the immediately attributable emissions from energy use of fossil fuels.

Today's "Take the Right Route" event is in conjunction with the Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish & Wildlife, and the Marianas Islands Nature Alliance to promote car-

bon reduction by means of walking, running, biking, or carpooling.

"Governor Fitial and I wish to remind each resident of the need to raise personal awareness about the cumulative impacts of CO2 emissions on climate change," Villagomez said.

He explains that climate change, or global warming, is the result of a

buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, mainly CO2.

When the concentration of the gases trapped in the sun's heat gets too high, "the Earth's equilibrium gets out of balance and temperature rise can result in severe weather conditions and storms, sea level rise, shoreline loss, and an increase in the ocean's temperatures resulting in coral bleaching and coral death."

So today, "Take the first step and reduce your carbon footprint. 'Take the Right Route'," said Villagomez.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

ranging from below \$40,000 to more than \$100,000.

It found that a majority of all Americans said they haven't progressed in the last five years. One in four, or 25 percent, said their economic situation had not improved, while 31 percent said they had fallen backward. Those numbers together are the highest since the survey question was first asked in 1964. Among the middle class, 54 per-

cent said they had made no progress (26 percent) or fallen back (28 percent).

Asked about their financial experiences in the past year, 53 percent of middle-class people said they had to cut spending because money was tight. Nearly one in five, or 18 percent, said they had trouble getting or paying for medical care, while 10 percent reported they had been laid off or otherwise lost their jobs.

Looking ahead to the coming year, half of the middle class surveyed said they expected to have to cut more spending. Among those employed, one in four, or 25 percent, expressed wor-

ries that they would be laid off, that their job would be outsourced or that their employer would relocate in the coming year, while 26 percent were concerned that they would see cuts in salary or health benefits.

Middle-class prosperity overall also lagged compared with richer Americans. From 1983 to 2004, the median net worth of upper-income families - defined as households with annual incomes above 150 percent of the median - grew by 123 percent, while the median net worth of middle-income families rose by just 29 percent.

SHELL

From Page 1

will now cost \$4.209 a gallon, while regular full-service gasoline will now cost \$4.339 a gallon. Premium self-serve gasoline will now cost \$4.399, while premium full-serve gasoline will now cost \$4.519.

Diesel goes up to \$4.639 a gallon, making it the most expensive of all fuel products.

The price increases will be posted as of opening of business this morning.

Mobil Oil Marianas has yet to announce a similar move. Calls made to

some Mobil stations yesterday showed that they have yet to adjust their prices.

In a statement issued yesterday evening, Shell Marianas president Eloy Lizama said that cost of finished products in Singapore, where Shell purchases its supply, has again set new historical marks.

"The continuing increase in Shell's finished product cost forces us to move our prices," he said.

The last time Shell raised its prices was on March 18, when it raised its gas prices by 10 cents a gallon. Mobil, on the other hand, last raised its prices on March 16. It does not usually issue a press statement about prices increases.

ORSINI

From Page 1

nervous really, I'm more excited than nervous," Orsini said.

Since finding out that he will be representing the Pacific Territories this year, he has been preparing for

the challenge with all the available time he has.

"I've been studying the official books. Sometimes I even watch Jeopardy! with my grandma," Orsini said.

This year, Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals when it airs on national television.

Orsini said he is excited to meet one of America's TV icons.

The National Geographic Society will provide Orsini and his teacher escort Heather Linday an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship.

Besides the \$25,000 prize money,

the first-place national winner will get a lifetime membership in the society.

"People may be expecting so much from me from this competition, but all I can say is that I will try my best," Orsini said.

The National Geographic Society is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations.

Founded in 1888 to "increase and diffuse geographic knowledge," the society aims to inspire people to care about the planet.

National Geographic has funded more than 8,000 scientific research projects and supports an education program combating geographic illiteracy.

CENSUS

From Page 1

The census, conducted in the last quarter of 2005, found that the CNMI per capita income plunged to \$6,178 in 2004, from \$9,151 in 2000.

The Commonwealth's household income and family income mirrored the decline in per capita income. Each household made an average income of \$25,172 in 2004, down from \$37,015 in 2000. The average family income plunged to \$28,461 in 2004, from \$37,986 in 2000.

A downward trend was also observed in the labor force population. Unemployment rose to 8 percent in 2005, from 4 percent in 2000.

These findings are contained in the 2005 CNMI Household Income and Expenditures Survey, a study originally undertaken by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Central Statistics Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce completed the survey using funds from the U.S. Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs.

A copy of the report was presented by local government officials to OIA economist Wali Osman on Tuesday. The administration hopes the census report will help the CNMI government make its case on federal issues.

"This 2005 HIES, and the 2008 Comprehensive Assessment and Impact Analysis Report we will present later, will allow OIA to represent better to the United States Congress and the Administration the real impact we face with our fragile islands' economy threatened by forces apparently outside our control," said Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for trade relations and economic affairs.

Population

The estimated total population in the

CNMI in October 2005 was 65,927, with 60,608 on Saipan, 2,829 on Tinian and 2,490 on Rota. The total population represents a decrease of 4.7 percent from 69,221 in 2000.

Saipan Election Districts 1 and 3 each had about 30 percent of the total population in 2005, followed by ED5 (13 percent), ED2 (10 percent), and ED4 (9 percent). Election District 6, or Tinian, had just over 4 percent while ED7, or Rota, had just fewer than 4 percent of the CNMI's total population at the time of the survey.

The estimated median age for the entire CNMI population was 29.2 years of age.

Persons aged 20 to 44 made up 48 percent of the total population, larger than those aged below 20 (32 percent) and those above 44 (20 percent). The reports attributed this to the large number of migrant workers in the CNMI who fall into ages 20 to 44.

Females, who make up 53 percent of the population, outnumbered the males, 47 percent. There were 87 males to every 100 females in the Commonwealth in 2005.

The largest single ethnic group in the CNMI was Filipino at about 30 percent of the total population in 2005, followed by Chamorro (23 percent) and Chinese (16 percent). The Carolinians comprise about 5 percent of the total population.

Asians made up 53 percent of the CNMI's total population, Pacific Islanders about 37 percent, and Caucasian less than 2 percent.

Persons of multiple ethnicities made up about 8 percent of the Commonwealth's total population.

Just over half (50.3 percent) of the CNMI's total population were U.S. citizens, while slightly less than half (49.7 percent) were non-U.S. citizens. By gender, total male U.S. citizens outnumbered total male non-U.S. citizens.

Total female non-U.S. citizens outnumbered total female U.S. citizens. "This is mainly because of the large number of non-U.S. citizen females who were working in the apparel industry at the time of the survey," the report stated.

About 56 percent of the CNMI's total population was born outside and migrated here, while 44 percent was born within the Commonwealth. Seventy-five percent of the total migrants came to the CNMI for employment. About 12 percent were family members of employees in the CNMI. Three percent came as students, 5 percent came for visiting, and the rest came for reasons such as missionary, medical, and other purposes.

Of the total number of migrants, 44 percent have been in the CNMI less than five years, 16 percent have been here 5 to 9 years, 30 percent have been here 10 to 19 years, and about 10 percent have been here 20 or more years, as of 2005.

About 84 percent of the total CNMI population lived in household units and 16 percent lived in group quarters.

Labor force

Of the estimated 48,669 people in the CNMI aged 16 years and older in 2005, 79 percent were in the labor force. About 92 percent of them were employed in 2005.

Non-U.S. citizens comprised about 78 percent of the total employed persons in the CNMI in 200, while 22 percent were U.S. citizens.

Asians comprised 75 percent of those employed, Pacific Islanders were about 21 percent and Caucasians less than 2 percent. Filipinos (40 percent) were the largest single ethnic group, followed by Chinese (28 percent). Chamorros were 13 percent, Micronesians about 16 percent, and Carolinians about 2 percent.

The garment industry, with 31 percent of the employed persons, was the largest employer in the CNMI. Hotels

employed the second largest number of employees, with 14 percent of those employed. The government employed 9 percent, and retail trade provided jobs to 7 percent of the CNMI's total employed population.

Over 79 percent of the total employed in the CNMI worked in the private sector, about 14 percent worked in the public sector, and less than 1 percent was self-employed.

Meanwhile, of the 3,200 unemployed in 2005, 68 percent were U.S. citizens and 32 percent were non-U.S. citizens. Persons born in the CNMI were about 56 percent of the CNMI's total unemployed population in 2005.

Chamorros were 35 percent of the CNMI's total unemployed, Asians were 24 percent, Micronesians were 16 percent, and Carolinians were 15 percent. Multiple ethnics made up about 8 percent of the CNMI's total unemployed population in 2005.

Income

Over 16,000 households in the CNMI reported household income in 2004. About 28 percent of these had household income less than \$10,000; 29 percent had income of \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; about 13 percent had income of \$20,000 or more, but less than \$30,000; 20 percent had income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$60,000; and 10 percent had income of \$60,000 or more.

The median household income in the CNMI in 2004 was \$17,138, down from \$22,898 in 2000.

An estimated 11,500 families reported family income in 2004. About 23 percent of these had family income of less than \$10,000; 28 percent had income of income of \$10,000 or more, but less than \$20,000; about 13 percent had income of \$20,000 or more, but less than \$30,000; 11 percent had income of \$30,000 or more, but less than \$40,000;

13 percent had income of \$40,000 but less than \$60,000; and 12 percent had income of \$60,000 or more.

The median family income in the CNMI in 2004 was \$19,625, down from \$25,853 in 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducted the survey in the last quarter of 2005. Last year, OIA agreed to fund the completion of the Census Bureau's data files in report form.

The CNMI requested the work to be undertaken as essential to the economic projects for the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office (GAO), the U.S. Department of Labor's congressionally mandated review of minimum wage impact in the CNMI and for the ongoing independent economic impact analysis for the Office of the Governor.

After an OIA grant was awarded to the Office of the Governor and CNMI Commerce, the Central Statistics Division worked with consultants from Harvard University and the Northern Marianas College to complete the important CNMI data files and tables to present to OIA.

A summary section profiles the general population characteristics, labor force population characteristics and income for the CNMI as a whole and for each of the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, with thematic maps.

A second part of the Report contains detailed statistical tables, totaling 188, on many of the topics covered in the 2005 HIES.

The HIES lists population by election districts, median age, age distribution, sex ratio, ethnicity, citizenship, migrant population, reason for migrating to the CNMI, length of stay and living arrangements. Labor and income statistics cover employment by industry, employment and unemployment, employment by ethnicity and citizenship and by class of workers. Household and family income figures are provided, as are per capita income.

Governor's veto action 'is being nitpicky'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House leadership says it was disappointed that acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez vetoed a bill that would have allowed the government to prevent layoffs.

"We have less than half of the fiscal year left. Adhering to the restrictions and guidelines that various legislators inserted in the bill would not have been an onerous burden on the administration. It is clear that the administration wants to operate without any restriction," Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said yesterday.

"But in a constitutional system of checks and balances, the House leadership will not give the governor a virtual blank check to do as he pleases with public funds. It would be reckless and a disservice to the people of the Commonwealth," he added.

Palacios said the acting governor's veto message was "nitpicky."

He cited several examples where Villagomez questioned measures that had been the practice since the early part of the Fitial administration.

Villagomez took issue, for instance, with a section of the reprogramming language that was taken nearly verbatim from Public Law 15-71, which



Palacios

he himself signed on June 26, 2006. He also questioned the section on lowering the retirement employer contribution rate which is consistent with P.L. 15-126 that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed earlier this year.

Palacios predicted that the governor would resort to impounding funds, a power given him under the Planning and Budgeting Act when a budget shortfall is likely to occur. The speaker cautioned the governor to strictly adhere to procedures contained in the statute.

"The House leadership will closely monitor the administration's actions and expenditures," he said.

House Bill 16-83 would have

RELATED NEWS

Judiciary voices concerns about austerity bill.

PAGE 9

permitted the governor more flexible authority to transfer lapsed funding to cover anticipated budget shortfalls and to tap into earmarked funds that are collected separately from the government's general fund.

The bill would have also reinstated the austerity holiday program and authorized non-paid holidays remaining in the fiscal year. The employer contribution rate for the government pension program's defined benefit plan also would have reduced from 18 percent

to 11 percent of the payroll.

"It is more than about saving the 400 excepted service jobs. It is about making sure that entire divisions, and even departments, are not shutdown because the government has run out of funding to keep them open," Palacios said.

The bill would have imposed a hiring freeze to fill job vacancies with a narrow exception for critical positions. "The hiring freeze was included to reinforce the House leadership's position that the administration

cannot hire new employees by using any potential savings realized from the reprogramming and shortened working hours," the speaker said.

He added that the House is ready to tackle the budget for fiscal year 2009. The members will review not only the expenditure plan but also the projected revenues, he said.

"Cutting back on the working hours and salaries of gov-

ernment employees generated the most discussion and was in fact the most difficult decision. The House leadership intends to pursue other options so that we do not have to make the same decision in 2009. We want government employees to be paid for an 80-hour work period. We are looking forward to addressing that concern in next year's budget," he said.

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March 2008 Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Saipan Water

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We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. Throughout March 2008, we collected 106 water samples in Saipan to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Of the 106 water tests, eleven samples or 10.38% showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than five percent (5%) of samples may do so.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
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What happened? What was done? Look below for the specific village or streets where problems occurred in March 2008:

- Finasisu:** (As Lito Dr., Gunot Wy., Ghoot Ln, Haigue Ln) **the main pumping station, Isley Booster I, malfunctioned during power outages. The repairs are now complete and treatment resumed.**
- Dandan Homestead:** (Mwaremwar Av., Buenas Tatdes St., Mestisa Av.) **There was untreated water well supplying this area. Immediate action was taken to divert well into treated storage Booster I tank.**
- As Perdido:** (Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr., Faha Pl., Maguro Dr., Niyok Dr.) **Treatment operators discovered the chlorinator for this water supply malfunctioned. Operators replaced the damaged chlorinator, set proper chlorine dosage and treatment resumed.**
- Achugao:** (Chalan Tun Michang, Fifan Ilap Dr.) **Treatment operators discovered the chlorinator for this water supply malfunctioned during power outages. Operators replaced the damaged chlorinator, set proper chlorine dosage and treatment resumed.**
- Tanapag Homestead:** (Haraw St., Houhafey Ct., FFirh Lp., Liger Ct.) **Treatment operators discovered the chlorinator for this water supply malfunctioned during power outages. Operators replaced the damaged chlorinator, set proper chlorine dosage and treatment resumed.**

For more information, please contact Heidi Yelin, CUC Laboratory Manager, at 322-5140 or via email at: cuclabman@yahoo.com, or contact Mariano Iglecias, CUC Water Division Manager, at 235-7025 – 7032, or via email at: miglecias@cucgov.net

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

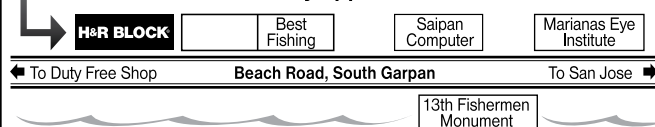
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UMDA president slams ex-UMDA director

United Micronesia Development Association Inc. president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr. yesterday slammed former UMDA director attorney Robert Pfaff for allegedly making another shell company to make baseless accusations against UMDA.

"After all the damage that has been done to the shareholders of UMDA by Pfaff and his associates over the past 10 years, I find it amazing that they have the nerve to create yet another shell company to make baseless accusations and

brazenly take another run at the proceeds from the LaoLao golf course sale," said Snow in a press statement.

Snow said that last Friday, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama issued a written order in the UMDA's lawsuit against Pfaff and a number of associates and corporate entities.

The UMDA president and CEO said that Lizama, based on the evidence presented, found that "it is clear that some wrongdoing occurred" and that the lawsuit alleging fraud, misappropriation of funds and

breach of duty, among other charges, should proceed.

Three days later, Snow said, a previously known entity called Laramie Fealty LLC, as trustee of G.E.T. Realty Trust, filed a lawsuit against UMDA and some of its directors, in the Superior Court.

G.E.T. is one of the corporate entities named as defendant in the UMDA's lawsuit.

Attorneys Colin T. Thompson and John P. Pierce, counsel for Laramie Fealty LLC, requested the court to take control of the UMDA LaoLao LLC's funds and order an ac-

counting on the status of the funds, among other things.

Snow said that Laramie's lawsuit has asked the court to believe that Pfaff and his associates are innocent victims of UMDA's plot to abscond with the proceeds from the sale of the LaoLao golf property.

The UMDA president cited that on March 19, 2008, Pfaff, who has been under a criminal tax indictment in New York for several years, was the subject of a new criminal indictment brought by the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York that involves his activities

while an UMDA director.

"We sued Mr. Pfaff and his associates in the first place to keep them from taking the LaoLao money, which is currently being held under the stewardship of the Superior Court. The court will decide who is entitled to the proceeds from the LaoLao sale," he said.

Snow said he sees the claim filed by Laramie Trust "as an unsophisticated attempt to divert attention from the wrongdoing of Mr. Pfaff and his cronies."

"These are meritless

claims which I am confident will be addressed and resolved in the course of the litigation," he added.

Founded in 1966, UMDA has been involved in businesses that include airlines, cable systems, and resort properties. Its shareholders include the government or government entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families.

In December 2007, UMDA announced the purchase from JAL Group of the Hotel Nikko Saipan. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Budget woes scuttle NMI participation in FestPac

The CNMI will not be able to participate in 10th Festival of Pacific Arts in Pago Pago, American Samoa, in July this year due to budget constraints.

This was announced yesterday in a statement issued by the Fitial administration and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to local artists.

The Northern Marianas had participated in the last nine Festival of Pacific Arts, wholly funded by CNMI General Funds.

Melvin O. Faisao, acting Secretary of the DCCA, under which the CNMI Council for Arts and Culture exists, said: "In as much as we would like our local artisans to continue being represented in the highly acclaimed FestPac to showcase the unique cultures and people of the Northern Marianas, financial constraints require prudent management decisions like this to preserve the long term general welfare of our community. Our non-participation at this year's FestPac means that we must plan ahead in advance and undertake a community-wide approach to raising the needed funds to ensure our future participation."



Faisao

cal constraints require prudent management decisions like this to preserve the long term general welfare of our community. Our non-participation at this year's FestPac means that we must plan ahead in advance and undertake a community-wide approach to raising the needed funds to ensure our future participation."

Arts Council Executive Director Cecilia T. Celes added: "We must acknowledge the stark financial reality precipitated by the onslaught and decline of economic activities as

a result of the closure and imminent demise of the once lucrative apparel textile and the slower than expected rebound of the volatile tourism industry. Equally important, we hope our

people appreciate our painful efforts to prioritize critical public services in line with renewed call to exercise restraint, frugality, and prudence in our public expenditures."

The 10th Festival of Pacific Arts is being held in American Samoa from July 20 to Aug. 2, 2008, and is expected to attract over 2,000 participants and thousands of visitors. (PR)

Off-island delegations join local arts festival

As Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration, the Flame Tree Arts Festival has attracted several off-island delegations from Guam, Tinian, Rota, and Palau to join the festival revelries on April 24-27, 2008.

At least 10 artists and craftspeople from Rota will provide on-site demonstrations, including herbal medicine presentation, *salinas* (sea salt) extraction, *nengkanno' natibu* (native food), coconut oil extraction, galaide' (Chamorro canoe) model making, pandanas weaving, wood carving, *da'ok* oil extraction, sea shell jewelry making, sand art painting, and *gabgab* (tacca) starch making.

The Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Council will be bringing a delegation of at least 50 artists, including a performing group, craftspeople, traditional/folk artists, and visual artists.

Tinian Taga Dancers are slated to perform at the festival and will be joined by an official delegation of 10 other artists from the neighboring island. Demonstrations by Tinian will include coconut frond weaving and seed jewelry making.

The Republic of Palau has confirmed to send representatives of the Palau Agency on Aging to sell handicrafts made by senior citizens.

"We're very excited about the participation of our off-island guests at this year's Flame Tree," said Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Cecilia-Celes. "They are each bringing unique art forms and cultural practices to Saipan that will only enhance our celebration."

The Flame Tree Arts Festival features live performances, artwork, and international cuisine. Booth registration for artists, non-profits, and information purposes will be open until April 17. The festival hours will be April 24 and April 25 from 6pm to 10pm, April 26 from 9am to 10pm, and April 27 from 9am to 11pm. The Parade of Cultures will be held at 8am on April 26 on Beach Road from Susupe Beach Park to Civic Center.

To register for a booth, or learn more about the 2008 Flame Tree Arts Festival, contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 670-322-9982/3 or visit the official Flame Tree Arts Festival site at <http://flametreeartsfestival.googlepages.com>. (PR)

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Electrical malfunction triggers outages

Traffic lights, water and wastewater services among those affected

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An electrical malfunction caused rotating outages and affected traffic lights, water and wastewater services in many areas on Saipan yesterday.

The outages began at 8am along Beach Road in Kristo Rai Church in Garapan south to San Jose intersection. The load shedding was set to end at 10pm last night at the same Garapan to San Jose intersection areas.

According to a report prepared by Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power division acting manager Lee Lieto, engine No. 5 at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base tripped yesterday

morning due to an electrical malfunction.

Lieto said that when CUC crew restarted the engine, mechanical problems were then encountered.

"As the mechanics make the necessary repairs, the power plant will not be capable to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet the island's [power] demand. Therefore, load shedding is required," the acting manager explained.

The repairs, Lieto said, resulted in power outages.

After the 8am to 10am outage along Beach Road Garapan to San Jose intersection, the blackout occurred from 10am to 12 noon at Joeten Com-

mercial Complex in Dandan, Kannat Tabla, Stanford Hotel area, Upper China Town, Upper Miha in Garapan, and Taro Sue area to Gualo Rai.

From 12pm to 2pm, the outage schedule was set for Capital Hill to Kagman.

From 2pm to 4pm, the blackout was set for Isley Field, CPA, Airport Road, Obyan, and As Perdido.

From 3pm to 4pm, the outage was scheduled for As Terlaje, Finasisu, Kannat Tabla, Airport Road, San Vicente, Dandan, Obyan, Laulau, southern side of Papago, and Botanical Garden.

From 4pm to 6pm, CUC set the outage schedule in Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Susupe court

house south to portions of Chalan Kanoa.

From 6pm to 8pm, the load shedding was in As Lito, Finasisu, As Perdido, San Antonio, Afetna, Koblerville, Chalan Piao, and portions of Chalan Kanoa.

The last load shedding schedule was from 8pm to 10pm along Beach Road Garapan at Kristo Rai Church to San Jose intersection.

It was not clear whether CUC implemented all the scheduled outages.

Lieto said repairs are expected to be completed yesterday, but if another emergency arise today, Friday, the same schedule will remain in effect.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 11, 2000

Federal takeover threats still alive

Local lawmakers visiting Congress in Washington D.C. expressed optimism yesterday over continued CNMI control over its immigration and minimum wage, but said there are still efforts by some members that threaten such power granted to the islands. Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, who led the 10-member delegation, vowed to woo support by U.S. lawmakers from both the House of Representatives and the Senate on local programs aimed at improving the island's labor conditions and ensuring economic growth here.

Dynasty, Mandarin Air seal deal for charter flights

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino will sign today with Mandarin Airlines the charter agreement for a direct service between Taipei and Saipan in a move to boost visitor arrivals on the island. The delegation led by Hong Kong Overseas Entertainment Inc. chair Michael Kwan and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan left for Taipei yesterday afternoon.

CPA opens bidding for Tinian airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority officially opens today the public bidding for the much-delayed improvement of the West Tinian International Airport, including the construction of a new runway that was designed to accommodate larger aircraft. CPA will be soliciting two separate invitations for the project; one will encompass the construction of a 7,800 linear-foot asphalt concrete runway and the other will be for an 8,600 linear-foot runway, according to Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios.

APRIL 11, 2001

Saipan lose investors to Guam

The Northern Marianas has once again lost a substantial amount of investments to its neighboring island of Guam, apparently due to restrictive investment policies in the Commonwealth. Due to its restrictive investment laws, Northern Marianas has been losing potential foreign businessmen to Guam where investors can get a greencard and American citizenship in five years for a minimum of \$250,000 in total investments.

Ways to improve tourism proposed

Measures to ensure the islands' scenic attractions are suited to the tastes of the relatively modern generation must be instituted to sustain the survival of the local tourism industry. This as the CNMI's share of tourists apparently get younger and younger. In the purview of an expert in the hospitality and tourism arena, local leaders should explore the possibility of creating one particular legislation that would ensure continuous development of the islands' most visited places and sites.

Defense dept liable for toxic waste in Tanapag

The US Department of Defense has been cited potentially liable for its failure to properly dispose of toxic materials left behind at the Tanapag dump site, the Division of Environmental Quality said yesterday. In a letter to General Counsel Daniel J. Dell'Orto, DEQ Acting Director Antonio Deleon Guerrero pointed out that under the CNMI Harmful Substance Cleanup Regulations, the US Defense took part in the handling, storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of solid waste.

APRIL 11, 2002

DD Council chief sacked

Thomas J. Camacho has been fired as executive director of the CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities during an executive session of the agency's Board of Directors Tuesday afternoon. Camacho, who has served the Council as executive director in a total of four years, was unseated by the Board on grounds of "unsatisfactory performance."

Rota rejects Global Country of Peace

Making a decision that was described as painful, the leadership of Rota has decided to reject the "generous" offer of Global Country of Peace to invest in the island "for the sake of unity in the Commonwealth." In a privilege speech yesterday that apparently took a majority of his colleagues by surprise, Rep. Daniel O. Quitugua disclosed that, after an evening meeting on Tuesday, he and other leaders of Rota have decided not to entertain anymore the investment offer made by the controversial meditational group.



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Judiciary voices concerns about austerity bill

In a letter to acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ac-

knowledgeed and supported the need to find ways and means to reduce unnecessary government expenditures in view of

the Commonwealth's financial condition. In doing so, however, the Commonwealth Judiciary pointed out certain provisions of

House Bill 16-83 that they said should be seriously scrutinized.

First, the bill mandates a total closure of the Judiciary on

Fridays without exception. In cases involving warrantless arrests, both the federal and NMI Constitutions require that persons arrested be brought before the court within 48 hours for a bail hearing. If bail is imposed and the defendant is unable to post bail, he has the right to a preliminary hearing within 10 days.

"Violations of this important constitutional right are well documented in lawsuits throughout the 50 states of the union and the federal courts," they said.

Because the monetary damages against the NMI government will undoubtedly be much more than the savings that may be realized, the Judiciary recommends that the Commonwealth courts be permitted to remain open on Fridays. As an alternative, Demapan and Naraja asked for the flexibility to address this issue internally, while still meeting the eight-hour bi-weekly reduction.

Second, section 8 of the bill directs that "[n]o position shall

be filled without legislative approval." In essence, this provision gives the legislative branch the exclusive and ultimate authority to decide which employees should be hired in the executive and judicial branches.

"This provision clearly violates the separation of powers doctrine, which is embedded in the Covenant and the NMI Constitution," the two said.

"The Judiciary strives to maintain the rule of law in our island communities within its budgetary appropriations, which is only 2 percent of the entire CNMI revenue collection. Shutting the doors of the courthouse on the faces of our people on Rota, Tinian and Saipan and giving one branch of government the ultimate authority to hire all CNMI government employees is a route which the Judiciary strongly recommends not be taken by our elected leaders," they said.

Villagomez has already vetoed the bill on Wednesday, citing the same concerns, among others.

GCA stages pirate musical

Grace Christian Academy students perform a song number during Tuesday's rehearsal for the upcoming play called *Pirates of the I-don't care-ibbean*: A Kids Musical About Storing Treasures in Heaven. The musical will be held today, April 11, 2008, 6pm, at the GCA auditorium.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy will be doing a one-night-only musical performance about faith based on the book *Pirates of the I-don't care-ibbean* by Barny Robertson and Jeff Smith.

The play is set for tonight at the GCA campus from 6pm to 8pm.

The main cast of the musical is composed of 16 students from kindergarten to the fifth grade.

The story is set inside Pirate Park, home of the Plattsburg Pirates (not to be confused with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Jeff's favorite baseball team!). It is a pirate night at the stadium and families are in the bleachers dressed as pirates to support their woefully bad team.

Just like Dorothy traveling back to the Land of Oz, the story starts with a dream sequence where a young fan named Andy gets hit in the head with a baseball and travels to a fantastical island in the Caribbean called Johnny Bay.

As the story unfolds, the audience will learn that the pirates don't remember anything about their past or how they came to Johnny Bay. All they know is that they are required to guard the captain's treasure from anyone who may want to steal it.

GCA music and drama teacher David Hamot said that toward the end of the story, the pirates will find out that the captain has been feeding them lies, prompting them to assume their rightful place in the sea. Ultimately, the story is about faith and how important an individual is to God.

Hamot said that there would be singing, song interpretations and musical numbers.

Tickets for tonight's musical event are \$5 for children and \$7 for adults. They are available at the GCA Business Office and at the door.

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Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Proxy war

Saddam Hussein is dead. Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction. And al-Qaida in Iraq is much weakened. Does the United States still need to keep 140,000 troops in Iraq to prevent an al-Qaida comeback and to wage a proxy war against Iran?

The Bush administration's top guns in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, told two Senate committees Tuesday that the answer is yes. Their argument was the same used to defend President Bush's "surge" strategy in September: Whether it's going well or badly, the Iraq project is too important to risk failure by withdrawing U.S. forces "prematurely." But in nine hours of testimony, Petraeus and Crocker avoided offering any benchmarks that, if met, would permit most U.S. soldiers to leave at last.

On the contrary, they cited the very problems that Bush created by his decision to invade Iraq—an al-Qaida presence and enhanced Iranian influence—as requiring an indefinite U.S. military effort. And they seemed more, not less, worried about Iranian attempts to destabilize Iraq. Crocker asserted that Iran is pursuing a "Lebanonization" strategy by using the Quds unit of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to arm and train private militias to attack U.S. and Iraqi government forces. Petraeus said Iran is the source of the 107-millimeter rockets that have recently been fired from Sadr City into the Green Zone.

The U.S. has offered to join Iraq in another round of talks with Iran, but Tehran has so far declined. Of course, the U.S. and Iran have been waging a not-always-cold war since 1979. What's new is the relative military, political and economic weakness of the U.S. after five years in Iraq—and the wealth and assertiveness of Iran. Why should the Iranians negotiate with the Great Satan when they can sit back and let their proxies bleed him white?

While Republicans fret about Iran (a good election-year rallying cry for the GOP), Democrats have apparently concluded that the only way to end the war is to win the presidency. Instead of trying to cut off funding to wage further conflict, they focused Tuesday on spotlighting its economic, human and strategic costs. Democratic senators faulted Iraq's failure to pay more for its own defense, asked why Americans should borrow from China and their grandchildren to rebuild a country that's exporting oil at \$110 a barrel and suggested that U.S. aid to Iraq should be given as loans instead of grants.

Meanwhile, the bloodshed in Iraq—with Americans among its victims—will continue as long as it suits Iran and al-Qaida's interests.

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Choices: Crunching numbers

The Commonwealth has attracted many adventurers who were drawn to tropical paradise. It inspires thoughts about the risks and rewards of following our rainbows in life. In fact, many types of seemingly simple choices can present some interesting situations. In last week's column (see SaipanBlog.com for a handy link if you missed it), I posed the following question:

Consider a game of chance that a player gets to play only once, and then he has to walk away from the table for good. Here is the game, in which only one of two choices can be selected:

Choice 1 is a coin toss, in which the player gets \$1 million if it's heads, but no money at all if it's tails.

Choice 2 is even simpler: The player gets a briefcase containing \$300,000.

Which choice would a "rational" person select? And which would you take?

Sure, we have to open a can of math to analyze this question, but it's not hard, so here we go...

■ ■ ■

First of all, let's place a value on the choices.

Let's start with Choice 2. The value of this proposition is simple; it's \$300,000.

Choice 1, on the other hand, is a bit murkier. It carries an "expected value" that is the probability of heads multiplied by the outcome of getting heads, plus the probability of getting tails multiplied by the outcome of getting tails (if you don't follow that, just take my word for it). So the value of Choice 1 is, statistically, \$500,000.

So here we are: Choice 1 is more valuable than Choice 2. Period.

So wouldn't any rational player select Choice 1? Here's where the fun starts.

Keep in mind that the player gets only one trial in the game (just as we get only one trial in life, eh?). If you were going to toss the coin a lot of times, the law of averages would assert itself, and, for Choice 1, that \$500,000 expected value would be pretty solid in the long run.

But, since the player can only play the game once, the odds are fully 50 percent that he will walk away empty handed with Choice 1, when he could have otherwise taken that sweet \$300,000 in Choice 2. In other words, though Choice 1 is more valuable mathematically, it also carries a 50 percent probability of giving the player a serious dose of regret.

Ah, regret! It's no mere emotional pang, it is a valid player in economics as well. So our simple probability math gets a bit more

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.



complicated when we back up to a more basic economic step and ask this: What is our goal here? It is to maximize our gains, or, by contrast, to minimize our regret?

If we go with the latter case, minimizing regret, we'll take Choice 2 and are paying, in theory, \$200,000 for that luxury, since that's how much of increased "expected value" we are forsaking from Choice 1. This is known as "risk aversity," where we pay a "premium" in order to lock in to a solid outcome. Most people are risk averse and are willing to pay to avoid risk. That's what insurance is, for example.

So, what is rational? If you're looking for a clean economic answer, here it is: The rational choice, here, is the one that you make for yourself. Nobody else can make a rational choice for the player in this example; not me, not Big Brother, not even Hillary, because the optimal tradeoff between risk and reward is a personal thing.

Personally, by the way, I'd take Choice 2, but if you would opt for Choice 1, your choice is no less rational than mine.

This is no trivial matter. Risk and reward are the very underpinnings of capitalism, and this is why only free markets can create substantial wealth: They allow risks, rewards, effort, and capital to seek their most rational allocations, which cannot be centrally determined.

Yes, I readily admit that most people prefer socialism to freedom of choice: They need an authority, a surrogate parent, to make their choices for them, and they also enjoy seeing their more capable neighbors getting smothered by the gray and drab gloom of bureaucracy. That's human nature, and why freedom and free markets are such very, very rare things.

Still, for the few outliers who enjoy making free choices, it's an interesting exercise to look into how risk aversity, rewards, regrets, expected values, and probabilities can all be seen in my simple mathematical riddle of the coin toss game. If you rode a rainbow to tropical paradise, thus avoiding the tyranny and safety of a cubicle, then you know what I mean.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Controlling your fears of diabetes

You don't necessarily need to conquer your fears in order to be successful. You just need to control them so that they don't control you. They may still be alive, and linger forever, but as long as they don't prevent you from taking action, it's okay that they're there.

What I find is that many people with diabetes, even those who know that they need an eye exam every year, have many reasons why they don't get one. Something keeps them back. What keeps you back? Perhaps you are afraid of finding out you that diabetes may have affected your eyes. Maybe it is inconvenient for you to go to the eye doctor. Maybe you worry about the cost. In any event, you may have a list of reasons why you don't go in for your eye exam. These are valid concerns. However, if these concerns end up leading to blindness, that's a problem.

There are two basic motivators in life—pain and pleasure. We try to avoid pain and we seek pleasure. We have fears associated with both of these. We fear pain, and we fear the loss of pleasure. Often the choices we make are based upon this fundamental drive to avoid pain and to seek pleasure. This drive helps us survive as individuals and as a species. But sometimes, the signals can get crossed.

With diabetic eye disease, I find that if you are avoiding getting the care you need, it is usually because you are focused on the wrong fears. You are very aware of the inconvenience (the "pain") associated with visiting the doctor, but you don't think much about the inconvenience of being blind. Or you are focused on the side effects of treatment, but not the devastating effects of not receiving treatment. So part of maintaining your vision, your motivation to get the care you need, is to shift your focus to the right fears.

The first step in controlling your fear is to identify it. What pain or inconvenience do you associate with eye care? What fears do you

have about it? Here are some of the more common concerns my patients share with me.

- Inconvenience of going to the appointment – it takes time
- Inconvenience of arranging transportation to get to the appointment
- Fear of the cost of the exam or treatment
- Fear of eye drops
- Fear of the doctor finding a problem
- Fear of knowing there is a problem
- Fear of worrying about the problem
- Fear of laser or surgery or any needed treatment

These are all very real fears and concerns. Do you have any of them? Do you have others? If they are preventing you from getting the care you need, you need to shift your focus. If you keep focusing on these fears and concerns, you may end up staying home, quietly going blind. It's like just giving up.

You need to shift your attention to another list. It's also a list of fears and concerns. But it's a more powerful, more compelling list. Let me ask you, what fears do you have about blindness? What pain or inconvenience would be associated with losing your vision? What things would you miss seeing? What things would you miss doing? Here are some of the things my patients have shared with me.

- I miss seeing the faces of my loved ones.
- I miss seeing my food on my plate.
- I miss being able to drive.
- I miss reading.
- I get embarrassed when people wave at me, and I don't know who it is.
- I miss cooking for myself.
- I miss seeing the sunset.
- I miss being able to play with my kids.

BETTER LIVING

By **DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



David Khorram, MD is a board certified ophthalmologist and director of Marianas Eye Institute. Comments and questions are welcome. Call 235-9090 or email him through www.MarianasEye.com, or leave comments at www.MarianasEye.blogspot.com. Copyright © 2008 David Khorram

- I miss my independence.

These too, are real concerns experienced by real people. This is the list to think about. This is the list of fears to focus on. Don't focus on the fears that keep you from getting the care you need. Instead, focus on the pain that would come as a result of losing your vision, and the pleasure you would lose if your vision was gone. Focus on these. Think about them deeply. Keep them in the forefront of your mind. Think of your loved ones, and how their lives would be different if you could not see. And remember, the inconvenience of blindness is more than the inconvenience of the care.

Aside from shifting your focus, many of the practical fears can be addressed. For example, many offices help remove any barriers to care. Cost is certainly one of those barriers. Our office, and many others, can provide financial assistance to help you with the expenses associated with your diabetic eye care and treatment. Most eye specialists don't want cost to stand between you and the care you need. If you have fears, even ones of a practical nature, talk to your doctor. They can often help with a solution.

Get your diabetic eye exam today. It's a sign of your power over the fear.

Letters to the Editor

Reason 1 why I oppose the PEW National Monument

So there are no misunderstandings about my purpose, I must first start out stating that the following comments are my own personal opinions and I am not representing any organizations. Additionally, I am not being paid nor am I receiving any compensation for writing this letter or subsequent letters to the editor on this topic.

My opinion on the NMI Marine National Monument (PEW Monument) being proposed by the PEW Foundation is based on my long-term involvement in the marine science and environmental regulatory fields and my personal belief in supporting sustainable fisheries programs.

As background, I was first introduced to the PEW Monument idea during the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Strategic Planning Session held on Nov. 17, 2007 at Fiesta Resort. Those in attendance were told by PEW that they had already approached White House staff about the NMI Monument and President Bush was ready to sign the Presidential Proclamation as soon as PEW could show support from the CNMI government and residents. PEW was offering to provide operating expenses to MINA in the form of grants in exchange for their active participation in promoting and selling the PEW Monument idea to the people of the CNMI. The MINA Board declined PEW's generous offer.

I attended a second, more formal PEW presentation on March 26, 2008, where the same concept was presented, complete with a PowerPoint show, colorful glossy handouts and various fact sheets providing general information about the northern islands. And finally, I carefully reviewed the PEW letter to Governor Fitial, dated Dec. 20, 2007, that outlined their proposal to create a very large no-take marine protected area in the Northern Mariana Islands EEZ, and an Internet investigation into both

the PEW Foundation and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument (NWHI Monument) controversy. I would like to think that I have done my homework in attempting to fully understand the issues and resulting long term repercussions should President Bush designate over a third of the entire CNMI EEZ (115,000 square miles) as a National Monument.

My wish is to write a series of letters to the editor that will attempt to reveal certain issues that my not be apparent from listening to the polished PEW presentation. My purpose is to provide background information so interested people will be able to ask pertinent questions on issues important to the community. Please remember, the real stakeholders in this environmental political game are the people of the CNMI.

I have serious reservations on all the economic benefits that PEW is touting about the Monument and will address them in later letters. Meanwhile, I hope everyone understands that the PEW Foundation cannot guarantee the CNMI anything. They are simply a Washington DC-based third party expeditor trying to sell the CNMI a product that they themselves will have very little (or nothing) to do with once the Presidential Proclamation has been inked. Who will ultimately pay for the PEW Monument long after the PEW Foundation leaves the CNMI? We will, of course.

With that said, I believe the overall costs (costs are not necessarily limited to money) to the people of the CNMI are too high. Therefore, I completely oppose the PEW NMI Marine National Monument, Mariana Trench Marine Sanctuary, National Park of the Sea, or whatever name PEW is calling it this week.

REASON 1

Designation of the PEW Monument will permanently ban all commercial,

recreational and subsistence fishing activities to U.S. citizens within Monument boundaries, an area encompassing 115,000 square miles. This will be accomplished by changing the existing resource management structure from that of promoting a sustainable fishery approach to a "no take" approach that prohibits virtually all extractive uses within Monument boundaries.

Based on management measures promulgated by the NWHI Monument, indigenous people will very likely be allowed to fish for sustenance purposes (not to be confused with subsistence fishing which will be outlawed) within Monument waters, provided the (fishing) activity is included as a term or condition on the federal permit that must be first obtained from the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NOAA/NOS), or its regulatory equivalent. Interestingly, Monument regulations require all fish caught in Monument waters to be eaten within the boundaries of the Monument. Oh, and don't forget to turn in your catch report to the Monument management authority on the fish that was eaten!

JUSTIFICATION

Presently, marine resources within the federal waters of the CNMI EEZ (0 to 200 miles) are being jointly managed by two federal resource management entities; the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Their approach to resource management is to support sustainable fishing practices in accordance to various federal laws (i.e., Magnuson (Stevens) Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Sustainable Fisheries Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, etc.). Both of these governmental entities also promote and embrace ac-

tive participation in developing appropriate resource management measures from those who know the resources the best—the stakeholders.

If the PEW Monument becomes a reality, the existing resource management authorities (i.e., the Council and NMFS) would be replaced immediately with another federal management agency within NOAA: the National Marine Sanctuary Program under the National Ocean Service. In contrast to the existing sustainable management approach, a resource management approach of no extractive uses will be implemented by the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This federal action is permanent and commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing activities in approximately 115,000 square miles of CNMI waters will become a memory.

In response to the above reality, PEW is quick to point out that indigenous islanders would be allowed to fish in Monument waters, just as the native Hawaiians are allowed to fish in the NWHI Monument. While this is a true statement, it is not telling you the whole story.

Regulations for the NWHI Monument (FR Vol. 71, No. 167; pages 51134-51142) require Monument visitors, including indigenous Hawaiians, to first obtain a federal permit that would allow access to NWHI Monument waters. For example, a permit could be issued for the purpose of practicing various traditional or cultural activities in the NWHI Monument.

In order to fish in Monument waters, one must have fishing activities added to the permit as a term or condition ('404.11(h); page 51139). Sustenance fishing will only be authorized if the activity is "incidental to an activity permitted under this part" ('404.3; page 51137). My understanding is that permits will not be issued to those persons that wish to travel to the Monument for

the sole purpose of fishing.

If one actually does receive a permit to sustenance fish, the visitor would be required to eat any fish caught in Monument waters within the Monument boundaries ('404.11e (5)). In simplest terms, no marine resources (i.e., fish and other edible marine life) can be taken from the Monument and distributed to family, friends, or community members back on their home island. And, should you be granted permission to actually eat a fish from the Monument, you will likely be required to submit a catch report to the Monument management authority documenting your eating event (see '404.11(h); page 51140).

The permanent ban on commercial fishing activities will detrimentally affect the CNMI's newest commercial fishing business venture that has already invested a substantial sum of money in infrastructure development on Rota and bringing two fishing vessels to the CNMI. Creation of the PEW Monument will seriously inhibit the development of any future sustainable fishing industries as it will decrease the fishable area within the CNMI EEZ by 33 percent.

So, what does the PEW Foundation really want? Simply put, they want 33 percent of our EEZ to be designated as a no-take National Monument so they can credit their Ocean Legacy Project for creating another large Marine Monument and help President Bush put another notch on his environmental bedpost to bolster his legacy as the "Ocean President". Working in concert with the President to designate the PEW Monument in the Mariana Islands before he leaves office is not about science-based conservation, but U.S. mainland politics.






Though it may surprise our paid PEW lobbyist, the opposing forces grow larger and stronger every time a presentation is made. PEW cannot fool everyone with their rhetoric and empty promises.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89 ▼75
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79

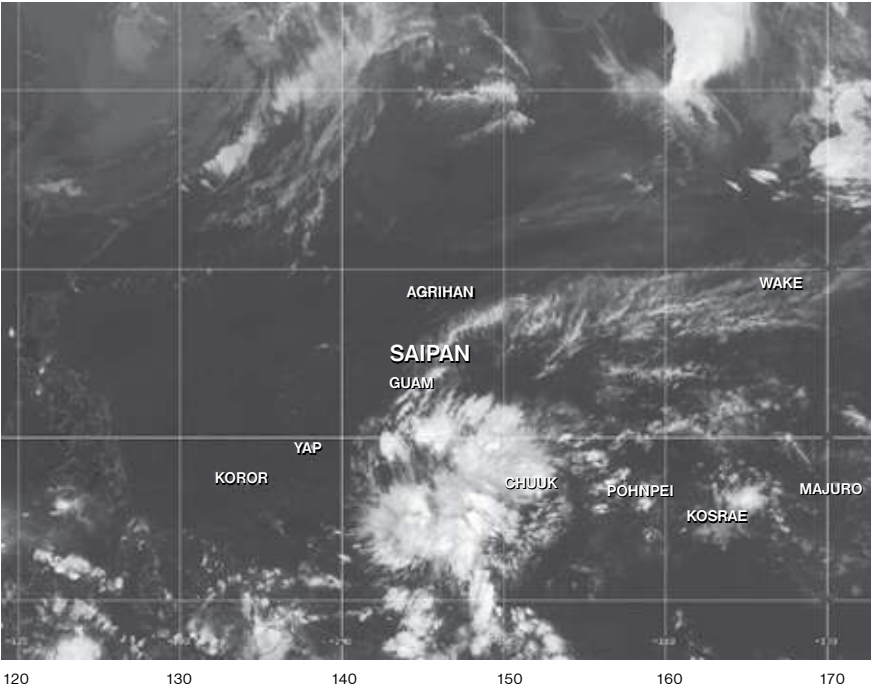
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲70 ▼57
Beijing	Showers	▲55 ▼45
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲82 ▼73
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼72
London	Showers	▲56 ▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82 ▼54
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲93 ▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲79 ▼57
Miami	Sunny	▲85 ▼71
New York	Showers	▲58 ▼51
Osaka	Cloudy	▲59 ▼44
Paris	Cloudy	▲55 ▼38
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼49
Rome	Showers	▲72 ▼57
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲69 ▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77 ▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼45
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼59

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:26AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:34AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
10:15AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:06PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches from 1N130E through a weak circulation centered near 3N145E to EQ146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation can be found over portions of Chuuk state between 1N and 9N from 143E to 153E and south of Palau between the equator and 3N from 132E to 143E. Another surface trough extends from 3N161E to 6N161E. Scattered showers associated with this trough are located over Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 3N and 8N from 157E to 165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:31PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:31PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:31PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:31PM
Tuesday	6:03AM	6:31PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:20AM	11:58PM
Saturday	11:24AM	
Sunday	12:26PM	12:54AM
Monday	1:24PM	1:43AM
Tuesday	2:18PM	2:27AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$182. Off-island subscription rate is \$376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

**CRIME OF
THE WEEK****Marpi
burglary
and theft**

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for more information on any person(s) responsible for the burglary and theft incident at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Preliminary investigations reveal that on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 1, 2008, the victim and his family, all of whom are Russian nationals, went sightseeing at the Last Command Post. Police learned that the perpetrator(s) in this case stole the victim's passport, credit card, and an undetermined amount of money after breaking into the family's rented vehicle.

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. *(Crime Stoppers)*

Pena House Boutique & Iridescent Boutique are having a Spring Collection *Sale* 20%-50% *on selected items April 11-13, 2008

Iridescent Boutique
Hafa Adai Shopping Center
Garapan
Tel. 233-6886
email: iridescent670@gmail.com

Pena House Boutique
Sablan Bldg.
Chalan Kanoa
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Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



Over 150 cops, firefighters get hero awards

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter presented yesterday the first-ever Hometown Hero Award to over 150 police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

In a brief program at the Department of Public Safety, Juan Diego Tenorio, American Red Cross emergency services director, handed the certificates of appreciation to recognize the DPS first responders "for making our community a safer place."

The certificates were signed by American Red Cross NMI Chapter board chair Larry Lee and executive director John Hirsh.

Tenorio said the Hometown Hero Award is the brain-

child of Red Cross disaster action team volunteers Christy Sablan and Claudine Atalig.

"It is an opportunity to show how much we appreciate their help and all other stuff that they have done to the community,"

said Tenorio, adding that they also gave the same awards to ports police and ports firefighters.

The director said there's a lot of people who are involved with Red Cross and give their time away from their family to help out.

"It's a good thing and they should be recognized for it," he added.

DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita said the Hometown Hero Award is a national program by the American Red

Cross to recognize and honor first responders.

"Nationwide, our first responders are police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and the many volunteers in the Red Cross and other

organizations that respond to disaster calls and...to post-recovery," Norita said.

The commissioner said he is happy because the Red Cross, one of DPS' partners, has recognized the DPS personnel who



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter emergency services director Juan Diego Tenorio, Red Cross disaster action team volunteers Christy Sablan and Claudine Atalig, and legal counsel of Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez Teresa Kim gather for a photo with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians during the "Home Town Hero Award" ceremony at the DPS Central Office in Susupe yesterday.



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Ranger	#7PA31119	White	\$16,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	\$12,995.00
Fusion	#7R12716	Pearl	\$18,990.00	Rio	#76292373	Gray	\$12,995.00
Escape	#7KB4588	Silver	\$19,990.00	Sportage	#7795376	Silver	\$17,695.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	\$21,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	\$18,995.00
Sport Trac	#7UA6536	Gold	\$26,990.00				



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are in the front line.

"We are happy with the relationship that we have with them [Red Cross] through all the years that we've been working with them," he said.

"I was really surprised, but I was honored that the Red Cross called last week and said 'you know, we want to recognize the guys and we want to come down and give them certificates'" he said.

The award, Norita said, is a morale booster for the police officers and firefighters.

BoG is MMAC title sponsor

The Bank of Guam is the newest Title Sponsor for the 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer, according to the MMAC Committee.

Bank of Guam joins fellow title sponsors Duty Free Shoppers, PTI, Joeten Charitable Foundation and Northwest Airlines.

Major sponsors include Younis Arts Studios, Shell Marianas, Saipan Mayor's Office and Angil Design.

The MMAC Committee members include David Rosario, Jack Sablan, Reina Camacho, Augusta Ogo, Nora Sablan, Kim A. Concepcion, Francella O. Iginoef, Frankie Eliptico, Michelle Kramer, Joyce Songsong, Joanne Ogo, Celia Mercado, Carlene Reyes-Tenorio, Mildred Sablan, Omdi Marino, Jeannie Mafnas, John Quigua, John Tagabuel, Catherine Attao and Chris A. Concepcion. Advisers include Dr. Jack Hardy and Kim Prinz. (MMAC)

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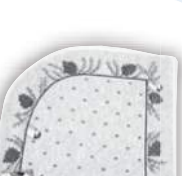
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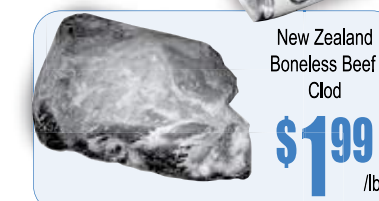
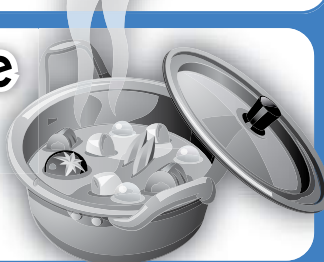


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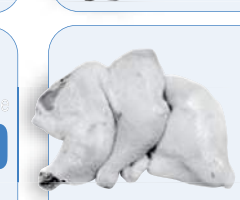
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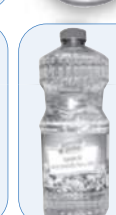
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R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	7,999
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	7,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	9,999

LEXUS							
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO		IVORY	ADU-502	29,999

TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	12,499

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U08-007P	2005	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 4DR.	AUTO	48717	BLACK	ACE-248	11,599
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,599
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,599
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,599
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,599
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	15,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899

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U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Team Hyatt coin drive fundraising event

The Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Hyatt will be holding a coin drive fundraising event today, April 11, at the Microl Toyota Intersection in San Jose, from 4pm to 6pm.

The event aims to raise critically needed funds for the battle against cancer. The MMAC Committee and Team Hyatt are encouraging the public to support their efforts by driving by and donating whatever they can so the fight against cancer gets all the support it needs. All funds raised go toward the battle against cancer. (PR)

Deadline for MMAC registration

The Marianas March Against Cancer is reminding all 2008 MMAC team captains that the deadline for team registration is today, April 11, 2008. The following teams have submitted their completed registration forms with payment: Pacific Islands Club, Grace Christian Academy, Department of Public Health, Tan Holdings Corp., Team Ahu, Team Frenz Gi Hinemlu, Team PTI/MHS, Team Bodig and Team Marriage Encounter. MMAC would like to remind all other teams to submit their completed registration forms with all other requirements. Contact Reina Camacho at reinacamacho@gmail.com. For other MMAC inquiries email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisaconcepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. (PR)

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan Reunion" will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the residence of Prescilla T. Castro and Gloyd Martin in Kagman III, at 6pm. Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-5974 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

KagES Cultural Day tomorrow

Kagman Elementary School is celebrating their 8th Annual Cultural Day festivities tomorrow, April 12, 2008, from 8am to 3pm.

Kagman Elementary School Community is inviting the public to join them celebrate their 8th Cultural Day Festivities. There will presentation of the 2008 Mr. & Miss Blue Marlin King and Queen Royal Courts, cultural presentations, games, food, and drinks on sale.

Please come and support our school in making our 8th Annual Cultural Day Festivities a successful event. (PR)

Tinian High PTA meeting

To all parents and legal guardians of Tinian High School students:

The Tinian High School Parent Advisory Council gives notice of intent to change the name to Tinian High School Parent Teacher Student Association. A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, contact Wella Mendiola at wellaemendiola@yahoo.com or frances diaz at diazfrancesh@hotmail.com or 433-3800. Your participation is needed. (PR)

SSHS PTA meeting next week

To all parents and legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School students: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

Hopwood upcoming events

April 14-18 Testing days for the SAT 10. Students' attendance is important for these testing dates
May 4,5,6 Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged
May 19 - 20 8th Grade Final Exams
May 28 8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

MHS Calendar of Events

April 21-25 SAT10 Tests
May 5-16 Advanced Placement Tests
May 12-16 Standards-Based Assessment Tests
May 26 No classes (Memorial Day)
May 31 MHS Commencement Ceremony
June 3 Fourth Quarter ends

KagES registration starts

Kagman Elementary School has started registering children for grades Kindergarten to 5th for school year 2008-2009. Registration will end on April 30, 2008, from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kagman Elementary School will register children from the following areas only: Kagman I, II, III, Upper Papago (Botanical Garden to Kagman), Agag, and As Teo.

Kindergarten students: Child must be 5 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

First grade students: Child must be 6 years old, on or before Aug. 31.

The following documents are required for your child(ren) to be enrolled: official registration form, birth certificate, CHC health certificate (original), transcript/report card/withdrawal from exiting school, entry permit, if not a U.S. citizen, affidavit of guardianship/power of attorney (if applicable), map of residence, and health insurance policy. All students registering must have complete documents submitted on or before the end of the designated registration dates.

For more information, call the school at 237-3965/3966/3967. (PR)

Congress to probe Pacific fisheries council

By **AUDREY McAVOY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—The Government Accountability Office plans to investigate whether the federal advisory body responsible for protecting fisheries off Hawai'i and other parts of the Pacific is properly using and accounting for government money.

The investigative arm of Congress said in a March 20 letter to U.S. Rep. Henry A. Waxman that it would launch a review of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

Waxman, D-Calif., the chair of the House Committee on

Oversight and Government Reform, had written to the GAO requesting the investigation to "verify whether the council and its executive director are properly using and accounting for government funds."

Waxman cited allegations made last year by Hawai'i non-profit organizations against the council. Those included charges the council improperly used federal funds to lobby lawmakers.

Both letters are posted on the committee's Web site.

The GAO said it would start the study around August when it expects staff with the required skills will be available.

Kitty Simonds, the council's executive director, said she did not know what the agency would investigate.

"We're ready to fully cooperate and answer any questions the GAO may have regarding the council or its use and management of federal funds," she said.

A March 28 letter by council chair Sean Martin to Gene Dodaro, the acting head of the GAO, said the issues Waxman raised had been previously brought up by activists.

"The council believes the complaints lodged by those groups are unfounded and do not warrant further investigation," Martin's letter said.

William Aila, a member of the Waianae Boat Fishing Club who has complained about the council's alleged use of federal funds for lobbying, said the in-

vestigation would be good for transparency in government.

Peter Young, a council member, consultant and the former director of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, didn't comment on the GAO's investigation.

But Young said he had to file a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain copies of the council's budget and meeting minutes from recent years because the council wouldn't give the documents to him.

Young said he wanted to see the materials to make sure government funds were being spent appropriately and efficiently.

He received the documents a few weeks ago but said he hasn't had enough time to review all of them yet. He believes most, if not all, of the materials he requested under FOIA were sent to him.

"Things like budget and minutes of meetings are the types of things that every member of the public expects a government agency to provide without hesitation," Young said. "It has been frustrating and I'm hopeful that we can get a clear understanding of how federal money is being spent."

Simonds said she was unaware Young was unable to get hold of documents he asked for and believed he picked up a copy of the budget at the council office.

She added that as a council member, Young receives whatever budget reports the council produces.

Young is currently one of eight council members appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to represent fishing and community interests. From 2003-2007, he represented the

state of Hawai'i on the council when he headed the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Benigno Sablan, a member from Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, said he fully supported the letter by Martin, the council chair, to the GAO. He added the council has been audited and he's unaware of problems with the audit.

Simonds said the council's mission makes it an easy target for criticism.

"We recommend regulations, so we live with controversy. That's the nature of our mission," Simonds said. "People like us, don't like us. That's the way life is."

The council is responsible for protecting fishery resources in the U.S. exclusive economic zones around western Pacific islands, including Hawai'i, Guam, the Northern Marianas and American Samoa.

It is one of eight fishery management councils for different parts of the country.

Famed muralist invited to decorate CHC wall

In celebration of the International Year of the Reef, several local groups have invited environmental artist Robert Wyland to paint a coral reef mural on one of the local hospital's external walls.

All persons interested in learning about the upcoming visit of Wyland are invited to an informational meeting at Fiesta Resort's Chambre bar this Tuesday, April 15, at 6:30pm. Marianas Dive will host the informal gathering at which representatives from MINA, one of the groups sponsoring Wyland's visit, will be on hand for a presentation and a question-and-answer session.

Wyland is famous for paint-

ing life size murals depicting marine life. According to his website, Wyland's murals are on display in 12 countries in four continents, and are viewed by an estimated one billion people a year. His work draws enthusiasts from all over the world, and has been recognized by the United Nations, the Sierra Club, and the Underwater Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Marianas Dive is a growing group of individuals with a passion for everything underwater and specifically what Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer as dive destinations. Members meet twice monthly. Visit www.marianasdive.com for more information. (PR)



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CNMI gets \$53K for HIV/AIDS care, meds

The Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded a total of \$53,958 in grants to provide primary care, medications and services for low-income and underinsured people living with HIV/AIDS.

The award forms part of the more than \$1.1 billion in grants that were announced Wednesday by Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt.

Of the amount the CNMI will get, \$50,000 represent the base grant, while \$3,958 will go toward the AIDS Drug Assistance Program that provide prescription medications for HIV/AIDS patients.

Funded under Part B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the grants are awarded to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and

the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Besides the CNMI, also receiving grants are the U.S. Pacific territory of American Samoa and the associated jurisdictions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau.

HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration manages the Ryan White program.

"These Ryan White HIV/

AIDS Part B grants help ensure Americans, especially those in rural and underserved communities, affected by HIV/AIDS get access to the care they need through quality health care and support systems," Leavitt said. "These grants strengthen community, city and state capacities to care for those with HIV."

The majority of the funding, \$774 million, supports

state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. In 2006, close to 158,000 ADAP clients were served through state ADAPs.

Part B awards also include formula base grants that can be used for home and community-based services, insurance continuation, ADAP assistance, and other direct services. Fourteen states will also receive Emerging Community grants based on the number of AIDS cases over the most recent five-year period.

"Ryan White Part B awards

reflect the urgent need for life-saving medications for those living with HIV/AIDS," said HRSA Administrator Elizabeth Duke. "Today we are thankful and proud that all ADAP waiting lists have been eliminated."

Every year, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program helps more than 530,000 people access the care and services they need to live longer, healthier lives. Information on all domestic, Federal HIV/AIDS programs is available at <http://www.aids.gov>. (HHS)

NMC's library sets rededication today

To commemorate the 27th year of serving as an invaluable resource to students and community members (and 20 years since the initial dedication), the Northern Marianas College will be hosting a rededication ceremony for the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library today, April 11.

The library was originally dedicated to the late Senator Borja on Dec. 4, 1987, at an event that

included then Lt. Gov. Pedro A. Tenorio and then college president Agnes McPhetres, who were joined by the Borja's wife, Carmen Borja. At this time, the library contained approximately 12,000 volumes of books and other materials.

Today, the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library is equipped with a mission to "provide both resources and an environment that enhances and encourages the college's academic and community-based programs." The facility also serves as NMC's main library center and boasts nearly 40,000 items, including books, periodicals, and AV materials. It is comple-

mented by the Pacific Collection, the CNMI Archives, and the Curriculum Resource Center, which is an education library held in partnership with the School of Education.

"The library has played an integral part in the educational and professional growth of NMC students and others in the community," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We plan to expand that role by aggressively seeking funding sources that will pay for expanded state-of-the-art equipment and other materials that will enhance the CNMI community's library experience."

A well-known former senator, Borja was elected to the Saipan Municipal Legislature from 1956 to 1963. He was acting mayor of Saipan in 1962, and was appointed an associated judge for the Mariana Island District Court in 1962 to 1963. He was eventually elected as a delegate to the Congress of Micronesia in 1965.

Today's rededication ceremony will include remarks from Herbert Del Rosario, acting director for Library Programs and Services; Fernandez; McPhetres, now a Board of Regent member; and Frances L.G. Borja, daughter of the late Olympio T. Borja. (NMC)

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- Walk starts at 6:00am
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- Health fair with free blood sugar testing, cooking demos and much more
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- Incentive program for schools, businesses and individuals
- Prizes include, a computer, digital camera, Nintendo Wii, cell Phones, Movie passes, waterpark passes, banana boat ride, gift certificates for Java Joe's, Shirley's, Country House, Pizza Hut, Ace Hardware, Ath-Jete's Foot, Lollipop, Big Dipper, Capricciosa, National Office Supply, J's Restaurant, Go Cart track, Palms Resort, Club Elan and much more!
- ALL walkers who raise \$15.00 will get a cool Walkathon T-shirt
- ALL walkers who raise \$75.00 will receive a FREE 1GB MP3 Player

Please help support the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter
For more information Contact the Chapter at 234-3459

Japanese soba promo a hit for Aqua Resort

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aqua Resort Club's Japanese soba action station during its Champagne Sunday Brunch was a big success, according to the Achugao hotel's food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa.

"That was such a huge hit, my God! Our average covers for Sunday brunch during the soba promotion was over 100 covers," she in a recent interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Aside from the increase in customers, Yanagisawa said the action station also brought awareness about how authentic teuchi soba really tastes like and how the noodles are made in her native Japan.

She added that the promotion was so successful that it was not unusual to see second and third

time diners during the four Sundays in March when Aqua Resort had the action station.

"We received a lot of great comments from expatriate Japanese and their friends and even from our local diners," said the Aqua Resort executive.

She said if things work out, Aqua Resort may bring back the Japanese soba action station in May or June 2008.

Japanese noodle restaurant Okada made the authentic teuchi soba from scratch right in front of guests during the promotion last month.

Okada operations manager Shunsuke Katagiri was joined at the action station by the restaurant's president, Mayumi Suzuki, while the company's owner and namesake, Toshimitsu Okada, supervised the entire operation.

Okada makes its Japanese

soba from scratch with fresh and authentic ingredients imported from Japan. The making of handmade buckwheat noodles also takes at least an hour with noodle-makers using traditional methods and equipment.

Okada, in an earlier interview, said he wants to open one of his restaurants on Saipan in the near future.

Okada, according to Yanagisawa, has been in existence in Japan for the past 40 years. She said it is about time a Japanese soba restaurant opens on the island.



MARK RABAGO

Aqua Resort Club food and beverage sales manager Yoshimi Yanagisawa, left, poses with Okada Restaurant staff, from left, operations manager Shunsuke Katagiri, owner Toshimitsu Okada, and president Mayumi Suzuki at the Japanese soba action station during the Achugao hotel's Champagne Sunday Brunch.

Ocean conservation promo

The NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the National Wildlife Federation have partnered with Walden Media, producers of such films as *Bridge to Terabithia*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*, to promote ocean conservation messages to the public, especially to young people, through the development of education materials for their newest film, *Nim's Island*, released in theaters on April 4, 2008.

Nim's Island is a heartfelt and hilarious adventure that chronicles the exploits of Nim, a young girl living a high-tech Robinson Crusoe existence on an unspoiled

tropical island with her marine scientist father and her best friends—a motherly sea lion, a rambunctious iguana, a sea bird and sea turtle. The movie stars Jodie Foster, Gerard Butler and Abigail Breslin as Nim.

Through this partnership, national marine sanctuaries and NWF are featured in the educational materials for *Nim's Island*. Download the educator's guide, fun wallpaper for your computer, watch the movie trailer, hear from Sanctuary Sam, and join Nim's Ocean Guardian Kid's Club, and more at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>. Also visit www.minapacific.org. (PR)

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Saipan International School

Tent spaces cost \$20 and are limited.

Call Mili at 288-9660 to reserve your space now!

Clean out your closet!
It's a great opportunity to sell things you no longer need and find just what you are looking for!

Sara Market II celebrates 18 years on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sara Market II has served as a one-stop shop for residents of the Capital Hill area for close to a decade and in celebration of its 18th year in business, the grocery, department store, and convenient store rolled into one is offering the lowest prices on island—bar none.

Supervisor Elsa Estayan said from March 28 to April 27—a full month—Sara Market II will be offering 10-25 percent off household items and 10-30

percent off toys.

To top it all off, the store has priced all-time barbecue favorites like leg quarters, whole chicken, beef spare ribs, baby ribs, and pork riblets at rock-bottom prices.

Besides guaranteeing that customers will save an average of \$2 in their purchase of frozen items, Sara Market II's canned items are also certified super-savers with Spam products, Ox & Palm Corned Beef, Hormel Vienna Sausage, Campbell Chicken Noodle Soup, and Beach Cliff Sardines priced at well be-



Sara Market II supervisor Elsa Estayan, left, and another employee pose for the *Saipan Tribune*.
GINA PABELLON

The façade of Sara Market II located on Capital Hill.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



low market prices.

Staples like Royal Umbrella Rice and Diamond G Calrose Rice are also affordable.

Estayan said that Sara Market II's paper products are also within everyone's reach with its eight-roll Basic Bounty tissue paper and Zee Napkin (360 cts.) on sale.

Even the store's drinks and milk products are on sale, as cases of Coca-Cola Pepsi Cola products are below \$13. For budget-conscious moms, a 25.7-oz can of Enfamil, meanwhile, is way below the \$30 charged by stores at only \$26.99.

Estayan said the store's owner, Eu-Suk Ko, is committed to always give customers of Sara Market II the best products at the lowest prices on island.


She also admitted that some of the items they are putting on sale are actually being sold at-cost, but Sara Market II doesn't mind because as the store's owner said, "Anything to make our customers happy this April, the month of our 18th anniversary."

Aside from the very low prices, Estayan said she is also proud to say that staff of the store are very accessible and can attend to customers' request with a snap of a finger.

Being along the road, Sara Market II is also quite accessible to motorists and parking is not a problem with as many as 20-25 vehicles accommodated by its spacious parking lot.

Located on Capital Hill, a stone's throw away from the CNMI Legislature, Sara Market II is open from 6:30am to 10pm daily. It has a staff of eight headed by Estayan.

Besides catering to shoppers from the area, the store has also been patronized by people coming from as far as Kagman, Dandan, San Vicente, and even Marpi.







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Beef Spare Ribs 20 LBS. \$17⁹⁹	Pork Riblets 10 LBS. \$10⁹⁹	Whole Horse Mackerel 22 LBS. \$19⁹⁹	Turkey Tail 20 LBS. \$12⁹⁹	Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. \$17⁹⁹

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Kool-Aid 32 oz. \$6⁹⁹	Tang 22 qts. \$5⁹⁹	Nestea Iced Tea 36 qts. \$7⁹⁹	Spam All Kinds 12 oz. LIMIT 12 \$1⁸⁹	Sun Flower Mackerel 15 oz. \$1³⁹	Coco Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans 89¢	Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 79¢
Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. \$6⁹⁵	Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. \$6⁹⁹	Ocean Best Crabmeat Imitation 1 lb. \$2¹⁹	Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. \$1⁹⁹	Golden State Vinegar 1 Gal. \$2⁵⁹	Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 89¢	Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 oz. 99¢
Ground Beef 5 LBS. \$8⁹⁹ 10 LBS. \$16⁹⁵	Pike Mackerel Family Bag \$5⁹⁵	Mackerel Family Bag \$5⁹⁵	Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. 99¢	DM Beef Stew 15 oz. 2 FOR \$3⁰⁰	One Whole Chicken 50 oz. \$4⁹⁹	Ace of Diamonds Tuna LIMIT 12 Cans 99¢
Gusto Ham 10 lbs. \$16⁹⁹	Miller Sausage 5 lbs. \$14⁹⁵	Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. \$3⁹⁹	Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. \$1³⁹	Hormel Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 59¢	Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. 2 FOR \$3⁰⁰	Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. \$1⁷⁹
Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. \$2³⁹	Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. 99¢	Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. \$15⁹⁹	Real Fresh Milk (Reg. & Low Fat) \$16⁹⁹ /CASE	Pickles Vlasic Whole Dill 1 Gal. \$4⁹⁹	Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. \$5⁹⁹	Moist Deluxe All Flavors 18.25 oz. 2 FOR \$3⁰⁰
Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. \$2³⁹	Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. \$2⁵⁹	Blue Crab Section Per Box \$8⁹⁵	Kikkoman 1.6 L. \$3⁷⁹	Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. \$4⁹⁵	Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 \$28⁹⁹	Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. \$3⁹⁹
Vega Shrimp 1 lb. \$5⁵⁰	Green Mussels 2 lbs. \$4⁵⁰	Milk Fish \$1²⁹	Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. \$2²⁹	Sugar 2 kg. \$1⁶⁹	Maseca Corn Flour 4.4 lbs. \$2⁹⁹	Zee Napkin 360 cnts. \$3⁵⁹
Tilapia 89¢	U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen \$2⁶⁹	Chicken Wings 5.5 lbs. \$10⁹⁹	Ichiban Limit 2 CASES \$7⁹⁹ /CASE	Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 59¢	Foam Plates 125 ct. \$5⁹⁹	Bounty Basic 8 Roll \$8⁹⁹
Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. \$1⁹⁹ 16 OZ. \$2⁹⁹	Candle Plain White Only \$12⁹⁵ /CASE	Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR \$3⁰⁰	Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case \$18⁹⁹ /CASE	Aluminum Foil 200 Sq. Ft. \$4⁹⁹	Niagara Drinking Water 24/500 ml. \$7⁹⁹ /CASE	Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. 99¢
Garlic BUNDLE \$8⁹⁹ Onion PER POUND \$7⁹⁹	Crisco Pure Corn Oil 1 Gal. \$8⁹⁹	Crisco Veg. Oil 1 GAL. \$7⁹⁹	Philadelphia Cream Cheese \$2³⁹	Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only \$5⁹⁹	Enfamil with Iron 8 oz./Case \$36⁹⁹	Enfamil 25.7 \$26⁹⁹

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JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	\$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR \$3.00

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PORK ADOBO	\$10.95
PORK CHOP	\$11.95
PORK BELLY	\$11.95
STEWING CHICKEN	\$6.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	\$4.99

U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	\$12.95
BEEF BACK RIBS	\$7.95
BEEF OXTAIL	\$16.95
BEEF STEW	\$12.95
RIBEYE STEAK	\$17.95
BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	\$14.95
SMOKED HAM STEAK	\$12.95
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Budweiser / Budlight

24/Case Warm Only	\$22⁹⁹
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Chamorro Punch

1 Gal.	\$8⁹⁹
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Coke Regular

24/Case Warm Only	\$12⁹⁹
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Pepsi Regular

Warm Only	\$12⁹⁹ /CASE
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The CNMI Head Start Program is pleased to announce Open Registration for School year 2008-2009



REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

Only parents or legal guardians are authorized to register their child(ren).

- ❑ Child(ren) birth certificate.
- ❑ Head Start Program Forms 3, 4 & 5
(copies can be obtained at the Head Start Office)
- ❑ Social Security Card
- ❑ School Health Entrance Certificate and medical insurance (if any).
- ❑ Parent's/Guardian's verification of income (2 of your most current check stubs or other public assistance, such as Medicaid, WIC or Nutrition Assistance).
- ❑ Passport/Visa/Immigration Permit (for non-residents)
- ❑ Legal Guardians must provide notarized documents stipulating the guardianship of child(ren).
- ❑ **Parents of children with disabilities are required to bring their child(ren) current IEP or IFSP.**

Please be advised that the Head Start Program is a Federally Funded program that has Eligibility and Selection Criteria's. Registering your child does not guarantee automatic enrollment. The program currently enrolls between the ages of 3-5 years old.

Children cannot be accepted into the program prior to their 3rd birthday.

For more information:

Please visit office at any Head Start Center near you
#1256 Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan

664-3751 or 323-7446

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gas, oil prices hit new records

NEW YORK (AP)—The upward trend in energy prices showed no sign of abating Wednesday as gasoline set yet another record at the pump and crude oil topped \$112 a barrel for the first time in the futures market. The national average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas rose 1.2 cents to a record \$3.343 a gallon, according to a survey of gas stations by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. With the peak summer driving season still to come and gas following crude higher, the fuel may well reach the retail price of \$4 a gallon that the Energy Department has been forecasting. But prices that are 55 cents higher than a year ago are hurting demand for gasoline, which fell last week by nearly 2 percent from year-earlier levels, the department's Energy Information Administration said in its weekly inventory report.

Stocks fall as oil jumps

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street extended its losses Wednesday as a rise in oil prices and a profit warning from United Parcel Service Inc. raised investors' anxiety about the well-being of the economy. Technology names were among the steepest decliners, with the tech-dominated Nasdaq composite index falling more than 1 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 49.18, or 0.39 percent, to 12,527.26. Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.05, or 0.81 percent, to 1,354.49, and the Nasdaq declined 26.64, or 1.13 percent, to 2,322.12. The Russell 2000 index of smaller com-

panies fell 13.54, or 1.90 percent, to 698.38.

UPS, FedEx eye overseas growth

ATLANTA (AP)—Beverage makers are doing it. So are airlines. With the U.S. economy waning and its outlook for recovery uncertain, the shipping industry, too, is eyeing overseas growth opportunities to offset tough times at home. But while bellwethers like UPS Inc. and FedEx Corp. seek to reduce their dependency on the wobbly domestic economy, they still cannot afford to stop focusing on their core U.S. operations, analysts say. UPS, the world's largest shipping carrier, cut its first-quarter earnings forecast Tuesday because of higher fuel costs, a weakening U.S. economy and reduced domestic package volume. Last month, Memphis, Tenn.-based FedEx reported a 6 percent drop in third-quarter earnings and said a slow economy and high fuel prices are expected to continue cutting into profits. It predicted fourth-quarter earnings would be lower than a year ago and its earnings growth would be limited in the next fiscal year.

Boeing 787 launch to be delayed again

CHICAGO (AP)—Boeing Co. pushed back its oft-delayed 787 jetliner by another six months Wednesday, postponing the jet's debut in commercial service until the third quarter of 2009, further jolting the company's credibility and likely costing it billions of dollars in additional costs and penalties. The latest delays—the third revision to its delivery schedule and fourth switch in the plans for first test flight—underscore the problems Boeing is having keeping to a schedule while leaning heavily for the first time on outside contractors to do most of the manufacturing work.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are providing advance notice of a scheduled Public Information Meeting for the purpose of accepting written and verbal comments on the proposed action to construct a Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal System for the Kagman community. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008; from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Kagman Community Center.**

The meeting agenda is as follows:

- 1) Overview
- 2) Environmental/Health Issues
- 3) Engineering Design
- 4) Proposed Location
- 5) Public Comments

Members of the general public will have an opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification regarding the proposed wastewater project at this meeting, which is being held to provide an early opportunity for the public to be involved. Comments may also be submitted to Anthony C. Guerrero, CUC Executive Director, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; or via mail to P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950; via facsimile to (670) 235-5131; or via e-mail to betty@cucgov.net by April 30, 2008.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REANNOUNCEMENT Request for Proposal RFP 08-011

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Preventative Maintenance, Repair, Parts Supply and General Automotive Services for the Public School System Bus and Vehicle Fleets.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-011" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than April 17, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-011, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (two (2) copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards, to split awards, or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P & S Officer

Which insurance should I have, and how much?

Christopher Brown is president of Ivy League Financial Advisors in Rockville, Md.:



Brown

Life insurance. Purchase a term policy large enough to provide your family with income for years to come, which often requires a death benefit of 10 to 20 times your salary. Avoid high-commission whole, universal or variable universal policies as "investments."

■ Disability insurance. Enroll in the maximum amount your employer's group plan offers — typically 60 percent or more of your salary. Individual disability insurance policies are very expensive.

■ Property and casualty insurance. Increase the liability component of your home and auto insurance by obtaining an inexpensive umbrella policy that raises your coverage to meet or exceed your total net worth.

■ Health insurance. Make sure you are covered for catastrophic illnesses.

■ Long-term-care insurance. Consider it when you reach your 50s.

■ ■ ■

Kevin Moultrie oversees the personal finance advisors in Maryland and Washington for the money-management firm TIAA-CREF.



Moultrie

It depends on your stage in

life (early career, mid-career, retired), budget, family situation (married, children, dependent parents), and time horizons.

Many people overlook disability coverage, which gives you an income if you are unable to work because of illness or accident. The likelihood of illness or injury is much greater than the likelihood of unexpected death. Check if your employer covers you. Ask how long payments would last and what percentage of your salary you would be paid (typically 60 percent).

Life insurance is another important form of protection. You will have to choose among term, whole life, universal, variable universal and even hybrids of these. Some people use life insurance to pay for such things as their children's education,

estate taxes, business expenses when a partner passes, funeral and burial costs. Tailoring an appropriate insurance policy is



Schwarz

really the basis of any good personal financial plan.

■ ■ ■

Louis Schwarz is founder and managing member of Schwarz Financial Services in Bethesda, Md.:

Life insurance is meant for replacing the income gap caused by your death. You want to pur-

chase enough to offset the anticipated income loss over your lifetime. If you are stricken with a long-term illness or disability, you would need disability income insurance to replace your lost income if your employer doesn't already provide it. (*The Washington Post*)

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Credit-card security in an insecure world

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

A recent security breach at a chain grocery store put 4 million credit-card users at risk when their card numbers and expiration dates were stolen. While it's not the first time a credit-card breach has occurred, it brought to light a new way of stealing data: during the transaction itself. In the past, stored data has been at risk if the information wasn't encrypted.

This time the breach appears to have occurred between the initial swipe of the card at checkout and the transaction approval, an interval of seconds or a minute.

What does this mean for you, the consumer? It means there's a need for even more vigilance in the way you handle your credit and debit cards.

If you were in the compromised millions, have the issuer or bank cancel your card and give you a new one.

If you had automatic deductions through the card to make automatic payments, notify those businesses of the new card number—or use this opportunity to rethink whether you want to cut

back on the number of automatic deductions. For example, if you pay for a gym membership by automatic deduction each month, ask yourself if you really want your credit-card number stored in the database of a small gym with questionable security.

Check your statements carefully and report questionable transactions immediately.

Many bank cards function as an ATM, credit and debit card, all in one. Debit cards, also known as check cards, usually have a brand logo in the bottom corner, look like a credit card and are tied directly to your checking account.

Debit cards have their own special security issue: the PIN. Use it as a credit card, not a debit card. Here is the difference: With a credit card, you're required to sign. With a debit card, you're required to put in your PIN. When you're at the checkout about to swipe your card, ask yourself this: Is anyone about to steal your information over the network? With that in mind, choose the "credit" option and sign your receipt. If anyone did steal information during the transaction, they got your card number and expiration date, but they didn't get your PIN.

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Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on April 17, 2008 (Thursday), from 10:30am-2:30pm Conference Room of the Aging Office, Garapan, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Quorum
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
 - E. Adoption of Minutes
 1. March 26, 2008
- II. Reports
 - A. Updates
 1. Program Improvement Projects
 2. Human Resources
 - B. Financial Report
 1. Monthly Financial Status Report for March 2008
 - C. Program Director
 1. Monthly Report for March 2008
 - D. Child Outcomes
 - E. Standing Committees
 1. Personnel
 2. Education Curriculum
 3. Executive
 4. Finance
 5. Public Relations
- III. Old Business
- IV. New Business
- V. Executive Session
- VI. Next Meeting
- VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Public Announcement

The Covenant Party will hold its general membership meeting on **Friday, April 11 at 5:30pm**. The meeting will be held in Chalan Laulau at the residence of **Miriam K. Seman**.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman



Congratulations Sara Market II on your 18th Anniversary!



From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

'Sect's teens were made to have sex'

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Young teenage girls at a polygamist compound in West Texas were required to have sex in a soaring white temple after they were married in sect-recognized unions, according to court documents unsealed Wednesday.

The temple "contains an area where there is a bed where males over the age of 17 engage in sexual activity with female children under the age of 17," said an affidavit quoting a confidential informant who left the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Agents found a bed in the temple with disturbed linens and what appeared to be a female hair, said the affidavit signed by Texas Ranger Leslie Brooks Long. The Rangers are the state's investigative law enforcement arm.

The temple also contained multiple locked safes, vaults and desk drawers that authorities sought access to as they searched for records showing alleged marriages of underage girls as young as 12 or 13 to older men and births among the teens. The affidavit unsealed Wednesday mentions a 16-year-

old girl who has four children.

Texas law prohibits polygamy and the marriage of girls under 16.

Also Wednesday, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers completed a weeklong search of the 1,700-acre grounds, said spokeswoman Tela Mange.

Lawyers for the sect had wanted to cut off the wide-ranging search as it dragged on but agreed in court Wednesday to the appointment of a special master who will vet what is expected to be hundreds of boxes of records, computers and even family Bibles for records that should not become evidence for legal or religious reasons.

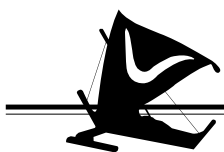
Gerry Goldstein, a San Antonio lawyer flanked by nine other attorneys the church hired, said the search of the temple is analogous to a law enforcement search of the Vatican or other holy places. The church lawyers described in documents three men being dragged from the temple as law enforcement sought entry for the search.

Troopers also arrested two men over the week and charged them with interfering with the search.

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Army under stress from long wars

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. soldiers are committing suicide at record levels, young officers are abandoning their military careers, and the heavy use of forces in Iraq has made it harder for the military to fight conflicts that could arise elsewhere.

Unprecedented strains on the nation's all-volunteer military are threatening the health and readiness of the troops.

While the spotlight Wednesday was on congressional hearings with the U.S. ambassador and commanding general for

Iraq, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody was in another hearing room explaining how troops and their families are being taxed by long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the prospect of future years of conflict in the global war on terror.

"That marathon has become an enduring relay and our soldiers continue to run—and at the double time," Cody said. "Does this exhaust the body and mind of those in the race, and those who are ever present on the sidelines, cheering their ev-

ery step? Yes. Has it broken the will of the soldier? No."

And it's not just the people that are facing strains.

Military depots have been working in high gear to repair or rebuild hundreds of thousands of pieces of equipment—from radios

to vehicles to weapons—that are being overused and worn out in harsh battlefield conditions. The Defense Department has asked for \$46.5 billion in this year's war budget to repair and replace equipment damaged or destroyed in Iraq and Afghanistan.



ACROSS THE NATION

Olympic torch dodges SF protesters

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Olympic torch played hide and seek with thousands of demonstrators and spectators crowding the city's waterfront Wednesday before being spirited away without even a formal goodbye on its symbolic stop in the United States. After its parade was rerouted and shortened to prevent disruptions by massive crowds of anti-China protesters, the planned closing ceremony at the waterfront was canceled and moved to San Francisco International Airport. The flame was put directly on a plane and was not displayed.

Petraeus says no new buildup for Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—America's war commander in Iraq told Congress Wednesday he is unlikely to endorse any fresh buildup of troops even if security in the country deteriorates, signaling that the limits of the U.S. military have been reached for now. Gen. David Petraeus, closely questioned by lawmakers for a second day, described Iraq as a frail state still struggling to provide its own security. That volatile situation figured in his recommendation to President Bush that a gradual pullout of U.S. troops be halted this summer—a recommenda-

tion Bush is expected to embrace in a speech Thursday. In his speech at 11:30 a.m. EDT, Bush will announce plans to cut the combat tours of active-duty soldiers from 15 months to 12 months.

John raises \$2.5 million for Clinton

NEW YORK (AP)—Experience is central to Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential bid, and Wednesday night she tapped one of pop music's most venerable rockers to help fill her campaign coffers with \$2.5 million. Elton John, who has sold records and filled arenas for four decades, played a benefit concert for Clinton at Radio City Music Hall. "I've always been a Hillary supporter," John, 61, said. "There is no one more qualified to lead America." The cheapest tickets, \$125 and \$250, sold out quickly, campaign aides said. The other seats were filled by fans paying as much as \$2,300, the limit for an individual's contribution to a federal candidate.

Feds: Man threatens black celebrities

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man has been indicted on charges that he threatened to blow up the U.S. Supreme Court and attack black men, including a justice on the court, according

to an indictment filed Wednesday. David Tuason, 46, targeted black men known to affiliate with white women, well-known white women who had relationships with black men, and children of mixed-race parents, federal authorities said. Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg confirmed that a threat was made against Clarence Thomas

but refused further comment. Thomas is the only black justice on the court.

Mumps shots didn't fully protect in 2006

Most of the college students who got the mumps in a big outbreak in 2006 had received the recommended two vaccine shots, according to a study that raises

questions about whether a new vaccine or another booster shot is needed. The outbreak was the biggest in the U.S. since shortly before states began requiring a second shot for youngsters in 1990. Nearly 6,600 people became sick with the mumps, mostly in eight Midwest states, and the hardest-hit group was college students ages 18 to 24.

Of those in that group who knew whether they had been vaccinated, 84 percent had had two mumps shots, according to the study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state health departments. That "two-dose vaccine failure" startled public health experts, who hadn't expected immunity to wane so soon—if at all. **(AP)**

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- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
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- Computer literate and with driver’s license;
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- At least five years’ experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years’ supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years’ experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the Saipan Tribune, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.



Asia

54 Myanmar workers suffocate in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Fifty-four migrant workers from Myanmar suffocated in the back of a seafood truck in southern Thailand while being smuggled to the popular resort island of Phuket, police said Thursday.

An additional 47 workers survived the incident late Wednesday in Ranong province and flagged down police for help, police Col. Kraithong Chanthongbai said. Twenty-one were hospitalized while the rest were detained for questioning, he said.

“When police got to the scene, they found that 54 of the workers were already dead in the packed

container truck,” Kraithong said.

Of the dead, 37 were women and 17 were men. Police did not immediately know what jobs they were heading for, but illegal Myanmar immigrants in that region generally work in the fishing and construction industries or as maids.

Police were searching for the truck’s driver, who had fled the scene, and members of the smuggling gang they believed arranged the trip.

Kraithong blamed the driver for failing to turn on the air conditioning in the back of the truck, which normally was used to transport seafood.

The surviving workers told police they sneaked into Ranong province from Myanmar’s Victoria Point by fishing boat Wednesday night and were then packed into a small container truck for a trip to Phuket.

But after two hours, the workers told police that many of them began falling sick because of poor ventilation in the truck, Kraithong said.

The driver stopped the truck after being alerted to the problem but then fled the scene, Kraithong said.

Ranong province is located about 290 miles south of Bangkok just across from Myanmar’s Victoria point and is regarding as a major trading route between the two countries.

There are about a million Burmese workers registered to work in Thailand and millions more who work mostly as laborers illegally to escape the poverty in their own country, which is one of the poorest in Asia.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM
Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN T. SABLAN,
GLORIA D.L.G. SABLAN,
AND ANTONIO W.
NEKAIFES.

Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 07-0177

NOTICE OF
SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in his matter on February 26, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, an of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale.
The sale will be held on April 25, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March 2008.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-596
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR OLKERIIL, :
Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It May be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. if uou fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

ASIAN BRIEFS

Buddhist monks call for Dalai Lama
LUQU, China (AP)—Tibetan monks in western China called for the return of their exiled spiritual leader Wednesday, as a top official warned that any disruption of the Olympic torch in Tibet would be severely punished. It was the second time in as many months that Tibetan monks have interrupted media tours led by Chinese authorities. The emotional outburst at the Labrang monastery in Xiahe, a town in Gansu province, began when a few monks started yelling slogans as journalists on a government-organized trip entered the nearby main prayer hall. “We want human rights, we want the Dalai Lama back, we want to preserve our religion and culture,” said one monk, who switched from Tibetan to Chinese when asked by an ABC reporter.

Violence feeds fear on eve of Nepal vote
KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepalis voted Thursday following an outburst of bloodshed that killed eight people and cast a shadow on an election meant to cement Nepal’s peace deal with communist insurgents, stoking fears of more violence. The voting for a new assembly is intended to usher in sweeping changes for this long-troubled Himalayan country, and will likely mean the end of a centuries-old royal dynasty. But with one candidate gunned down, a protester shot dead by police and six former rebels slain in a clash with police, it was clear that fashioning a lasting peace in this largely impoverished, often ill-governed and frequently violent country won’t be easy.

Philippine police seize bomb materials in raid
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police seized hundreds of components for making bombs in a raid on a suspected terrorist hide-out in the northern Philippines, officials said Wednesday. The target of Tuesday’s raid in Laguna province’s Alaminos town was Khalid Pagayao, a Filipino allegedly tied to the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network and a plot to bomb Western embassies in the Philippines, but he was not in the house, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said. Police recovered 550 pieces of improvised blasting caps, 25 pieces of time fuse, two detonating cords and an undetermined amount of Tetryl, an explosive compound.

World

Iraqi men rush wounded children to a hospital in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City, Baghdad, Wednesday, April 9, 2008. AP



20 more Iraqis die in Sadr City clashes

BAGHDAD (AP)—Errant mortar shells slammed into houses and a funeral tent Wednesday, leaving three children among the dead during clashes in a Shiite militia stronghold under siege by American and Iraqi forces on the fifth anniversary of the U.S. capture of the capital.

The fighting came as the U.S. military announced the deaths of five more soldiers. That raised the number of American troop deaths to 17 since Sunday.

Many Iraqis said hopes that followed the U.S.-led ouster of Sadd-

am Hussein have been quashed.

"On this day five years ago we were dreaming of a bright future, but now we know that our dream has turned into a long nightmare," said Khalid Ibrahim, a 45-year-old teacher from the mainly Sunni area of Azamiyah.

In many ways, Baghdad resembles more of a war zone than it did on April 9, 2003, when American troops stormed into the capital and pulled down a bronze statue of Saddam with

the help of dozens of Iraqis.

The city of some 6 million people has largely been carved up along sectarian lines, a patchwork of neighborhoods surrounded by 10-foot-high concrete walls and dotted with checkpoints.

Violence declined last year and early this year following a cease-fire by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, an influx of some 30,000 additional American troops and a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gaza gunmen kill 2 in southern Israel

NAHAL OZ, Israel (AP)—Militants from the Gaza Strip slipped across the border and opened fire at a fuel depot in southern Israel on Wednesday, killing two Israeli civilians in a brazen daylight raid that threatened to set off heavy combat after a monthlong lull. The Israeli government held Gaza's Hamas rulers responsible for the attack and sent tanks, troops and aircraft into the Palestinian territory. At least nine Palestinians died during the day, including two at the depot and seven in Gaza. Earlier in the day, a Hamas militant and an Israeli soldier also were killed in clashes in southern Gaza.

UN chief warns against Eritrean pullout

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A new war could break out between Eritrea and Ethiopia if U.N. peacekeepers withdraw from a buffer zone along their disputed border, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned Wednesday. Ban ordered the troops to temporarily withdraw from the Eritrean side of the border on Feb. 11 after Eritrea obstructed peacekeepers by restricting U.N. night patrols, supply routes and diesel fuel. He said Ethiopia told him that it would have a hard time accepting peacekeepers only on its side of the buffer zone.

AP photographer granted Iraqi amnesty

BAGHDAD (AP)—An Iraqi judicial committee has dismissed terrorism-related allegations against Associated Press photographer Bilal Hussein and ordered him released nearly two years after he was detained by the U.S. military. Hussein, 36, remained in custody Wednesday at Camp Cropper, a U.S. detention facility near Baghdad's airport. A decision by a four-judge panel said Hussein's case falls under a new amnesty law. It ordered Iraqi courts to "cease legal proceedings" and ruled that Hussein should be "immediately" released unless other accusations are pending.



UK's Brown won't attend Olympics opening

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will skip the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. He became the second major world leader after German Chancellor Angela Merkel to decide to stay away from the opening ceremonies, although Brown's office insisted Wednesday that he was not boycotting the Olympics and would attend the closing ceremony. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said last month that he was debating not attending the opening ceremony. Asked whether President Bush would go to the opening portion of the Olympics, White House press secretary Dana Perino demurred, citing the fluid nature of a foreign trip. "It is extremely premature for me to say what the president's schedule is going to be" in August, she said.

Haitian president fails to restore order

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A desperate appeal from the president Wednesday failed to restore order to Haiti's shattered capital, and bands of looters sacked stores, warehouses and government offices. Gunfire rang out from the wealthy suburbs in the hills to the starving slums below as 9,000 U.N.

peacekeepers were unable to halt a frenzy of looting and violence that has grown out of protests over rising food prices. Thousands of people were in the streets of Port-au-Prince following President Rene Preval's speech, many looting stores and terrorizing drivers and shopkeepers with rocks. Thousands more took part other in protests across the country.


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RFP08-CRM-052**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 6, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.



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/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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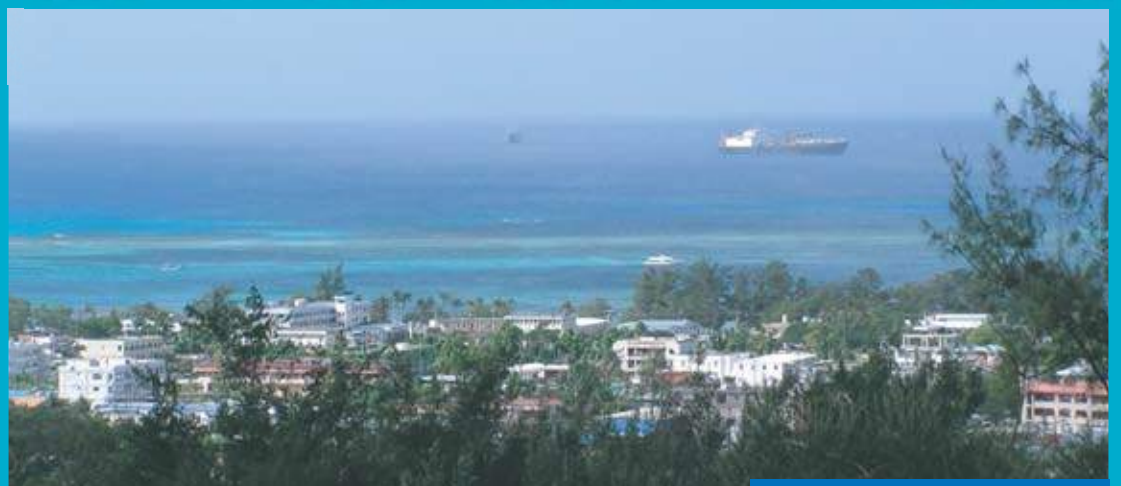
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- Night time security
- Typhoon Shutters
- Laundry area
- Backup Generator
- On-call maintenance staff

Now we're giving you more reasons to sign up for a year's contract!

Receive an annual FREE VIP Membership to Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and enjoy these VIP privileges:

- 2 Free Sunday Brunch Buffet for two
- 20% discount on food and beverages in all outlets / restaurants
- 20% discount on drinks after happy hour at the Chambre Bar
- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Off The Wall

Man who yelled at phone user acquitted

NEW YORK (AP)—A retired police officer who screamed obscenities at a train passenger who was talking on a cell phone and who hit the hand of another passenger who intervened was acquitted Tuesday of misdemeanor charges stemming from the confrontation.

John Clifford, who is also a lawyer, was found not guilty after a two-day nonjury trial at which he acted as his own attorney. He had been charged with misdemeanor counts of attempted assault, disorderly conduct, harassment and attempted petit larceny and had faced up to a year in jail if convicted.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Larry Stephen issued his verdict immediately after closing arguments: “I see no crimes having been committed beyond a reasonable doubt. The case is dismissed and sealed.”

The 6-foot-4 Clifford acknowledged during trial that he was aggressive and overbearing when he approached Long Island Rail Road commuters he considered rude for talking too loudly on cell phones and for other behavior.

During trial, Clifford, 60, admitted cursing at Nicholas Bender, “a 19-year-old nitwit waking up one girlfriend after another,” and slapping the hand of Lydia Klein after she slapped his when he reached for a business card she was handing Bender on the train from Long Beach to Manhattan’s Pennsylvania Station on March 28, 2007.

Clifford, who retired as a police sergeant after 10 years on the job, said Tuesday he had been arrested eight times after being accused of throwing coffee, spewing expletives and getting in the faces of people whom he considered loud and rude on the commuter line. This was the only case that wasn’t dismissed.

“It took a lawyer and an old

ex-police sergeant to stand up to it (public rudeness),” Clifford, of Long Beach, said as he left court. He said that unless lawmakers and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority do something, the lack of public civility will persist.

Asked what he regretted about his behavior, Clifford replied, “Nothing.”

He added, “I don’t want anybody to think they can’t have a private conversation (around me), but keep it private.”

The LIRR issued a statement saying it was “disappointed” but accepted the judgment of the court.

“Some of our customers feel as if they have been abused by Mr. Clifford’s behavior,” the statement said. “We will not tolerate aggressive behavior by Mr. Clifford if he seeks to impose his own standards of conduct on others. We will not hesitate in the future to call on police if necessary to protect the safety of our customer and employees.”

Vodka-maker Absolut apologizes for ads

MEXICO CITY (AP) -- The Absolut vodka company apologized Saturday for an ad campaign depicting the southwestern U.S. as part of Mexico amid angry calls for a boycott by U.S. consumers.

The campaign, which promotes ideal scenarios under the slogan “In an Absolut World,” showed a 1830s-era map when Mexico included California, Texas and other southwestern states. Mexico still resents losing that territory in the 1848 Mexican-American War and the fight for Texas independence.

But the ads, which ran only in Mexico and have since ended, were less than ideal for Americans undergoing a border buildup and embroiled in an emotional debate over illegal immigration from their southern neighbor.

More than a dozen calls to boycott Absolut were posted on michellemalkin.com, a Web site operated by conservative columnist Michelle Malkin. The ads sparked heated comment on a half-dozen other Internet sites and blogs.

“In no way was it meant to offend or disparage, nor does it advocate an altering of borders, nor does it lend support to any anti-American sentiment, nor does it reflect immigration issues,” Absolut said in a state-



AP
In this image released by the Mexican advertising firm of Teran/TBWA on Monday April 7, 2008, an advertisement created for Swedish Absolut Vodka which ran in Mexico, shows a map of the border of Mexico and the United States where it stood before the Mexican-American War of 1848.

ment left on its consumer inquiry phone line.

Some fringe U.S. groups also claim the land is rightfully part of Mexico, while extreme immigration foes argue parts of the U.S. already are being overtaken by Mexico.

“In an Absolut world, a company that produces vodka fires its entire marketing department in a desperate attempt to win back enraged North American customers after a disastrous ad campaign backfires,” a person using the moniker “SalsaNChips” wrote on Malkin’s Web site.

A plan for comprehensive immigration reform designed to deal with an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States—the vast majority from Mexico—collapsed last summer under the emotional weight of the debate.

Absolut said the ad was designed for a Mexican audience and intended to recall “a time which the population of Mexico might feel was more ideal.”

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Pepsi theft no accident

BROOKLYN, Ohio (AP)—Police say a security tape supports their claim: this Pepsi theft was no accident. Thomas Sturgis, 50, of Cleveland, told WEWS-TV on Tuesday that after paying \$157.20 for groceries Saturday night at Giant Eagle he forgot about a \$4 case of soda under the cart and was arrested for petty theft. But Brooklyn Chief Mark Tenaglia said Wednesday that security video shows Sturgis using a self-checkout with no items on the bottom of his cart. Tenaglia says a second video camera shows Sturgis loading six 12-packs of Pepsi into his cart before he exited the store. The total value of the soda was \$21.54 with tax. Sturgis declined to comment on Wednesday. “I’m going to let everything be handled in court. That’s all I have to say,” he said.


Woman accused of DUI at police station

NEWPORT, Ore. (AP)—The Oregon State Police arrest drunken drivers on the road every day. But it’s not often when the drivers show up drunk at a state police office. Troopers charged Ruby Ann Pederson, 42, of Newport with driving under the influence of intoxicants

after she came to work to clean the state police office. A trooper said she showed signs of being intoxicated after driving to the office with her 12-year-old son. A blood-alcohol test showed her level was 0.19 percent - more than twice the legal limit. She was also charged with recklessly endangering another person.

Woman stops alleged burglar with scraper

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) —Cedar Rapids police say a woman chased down a burglar, bagged him with an ice scraper and then made him pick up the stolen loot he dropped when he fled. Police were called to Dordre Rodriguez’s home on Monday where they found her holding 16-year-old Jake Merfeld at bay with the ice scraper. She told officers that when she came home, she heard someone jump out of a back window. She saw the teen running across the yard, carrying jewelry, cell phones and a video game. Rodriguez chased the suspect, who started dropping the items. When she caught him, she hit him on top of the head with the ice scraper and he surrendered. Rodriguez made Merfeld pick up the property he dropped when he tried to escape.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for the **RUNWAY 7/25 REHABILITATION** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PACKAGE 2, Phase 1, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-50/53** will be received at the office of the ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2008**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of: Connection of storm drainage pipe to the new water reservoir, excavation through parallel Taxiway “A”, demolishing and filling of the existing reservoir site; conversion of Taxiway “A” into a temporary runway including removal to taxiway lights and installation of runway lights, and storm drainage system.

The project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the Phase 1 project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred Sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages for each phase shall be in accordance with G-100-3.4. The Contractor shall be assessed liquidated damages for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsible or responsive”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-25 of the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set CD-Rom of plan documents. This amount is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, U.S. postal money order, or cashiers check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA CONFERENCE ROOM, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to CPA, in writing to the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at least seven (7) days in advance for answers at this pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of \$50,000 or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total bid proposal price of the Phase 1 total construction amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director

Date: February 29, 2008

Science & Technology

Free Photoshop presents a mixed picture

By **ROB PEGORARO**
© 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Adobe Photoshop is one of the most complicated, expensive, intensive programs you'll never want to use. Adobe Photoshop Express has next to nothing in common with that \$649 program, or even its \$100, consumer-focused spinoff called Photoshop Elements.

Photoshop Express costs nothing, needs no manual and runs inside a Web browser.

Other companies, including most of the popular picture-sharing sites, have Web-based photo editors already. But for Adobe—a company that made its fortune by selling software on discs—getting into free Web applications is a major step.

It's as if Microsoft delivered a Web-based version of Microsoft Office, with a similar level of risk. Essentially, Adobe is inviting home users to forget about paying for its computer-bound releases. It's even throwing in two gigabytes of free photo storage (though you can expect to be invited to pay for more space, as

well as for other upgrades beyond the basic service).

Photoshop Express (photoshop.com/express) runs on Adobe's Flash plug-in, which works in all modern browsers and across a variety of operating systems. The site looked and worked the same using Microsoft's Internet Explorer in Windows XP, Apple's Safari in Mac OS X and Mozilla Firefox in XP and Ubuntu Linux.

Photoshop Express offers a broad range of editing tools, including some absent from disc-based competitors—most of which worked as quickly as in those older programs.

In addition to such standard fixes as a quick "auto correct," the ability to flip pictures from horizontal to vertical and back, red-eye removal and exposure and color adjustments, you can also straighten shots to level out the horizon, brighten or dim backgrounds and foregrounds, sharpen or soften the focus and tweak the "white balance" so snow doesn't look blue.

Photoshop Express also offers a few artistic effects. For example, a "pop color" tool lets you select one color to keep

while turning everything else into shades of gray. A "sketch" command makes a photo resemble a pen-and-ink drawing.

Most of these features come with plenty of flexibility and guidance. The auto-correct option, for example, suggests five possible improvements for the picture, all illustrated in thumbnail previews.

You can also undo all of your changes, bringing you back to the picture as it was first taken.

But other factors hold back Photoshop Express, compared with desktop programs and other Web-based applications.

The big one can't be blamed on Adobe: the slow upload speeds of most consumer Internet services. While cable and phone companies like to brag about fast downloads, the other half of the connection typically runs much slower. A consumer DSL connection needed about an hour to ship 70 pictures—taken with a year-old, mid-range camera—to the Adobe site.

Photoshop Express's other issues, however, can be pinned only on its creators.

One: Even after you've beamed your shots up to the Adobe site, using this program can involve notable, distracting waits. Opening a photo for editing—which you'll need to do just to zoom into it—took five to seven seconds, even on a fast connection at the office. Saving edits to a photo took as long as 30 seconds.

Two: Photoshop Express provides only a few links to the photo-sharing sites that most people already use. By providing your user name and password, you can bring photos in and out of Facebook, Photobucket and Picasa—but not such popular competitors as Flickr or Kodak Gallery, each of which has its own Web-based editing tools. Flickr's, in particular, exceeds Adobe's in simplicity and speed.

At the moment, Photoshop Express's greatest utility seems to be as a Facebook accessory.

Three: For now, you can't print anything, except by printing an entire browser window. That may not be a problem for users who have transcended paper, but many others would rather order 8-by-10 blowups

of their best shots—an option that Adobe says won't come for a few months.

Four: This site suffers from way too many glitches, even for something labeled a beta. Some hide in fine print: Photoshop Express's terms of service allow Adobe to reuse your photos at will, an excess of sloppy lawyering that the company says it will correct. Others are more obvious, such as the way it kept losing captions I'd added to some photos. After I shipped an album of pictures over to Facebook, the captions that did survive wound up on the wrong shots, while the pictures had been shuffled into a seemingly random order.

Adobe has the right idea in getting into the Web-applications game. But this initial entry doesn't offer enough to make people leave competing services. And without collaboration features that might let you and a friend cooperate online in labeling and editing pictures, it provides an incomplete answer to the question of why you'd want to edit photos in a Web browser at all.

THE HELP FILE

By **ROB PEGORARO**
© 2008, The Washington Post



Q: I'm in the market for an iPod, but I don't want to buy one just before Apple comes out with a better model. When's the next version due?

A: If you think it's tough to play the stock market, try guessing Apple's product plans. This company follows its own counsel and keeps its own secrets, routinely surprising industry analysts, tech journalists and even the employees in its own stores with new Macs and iPods.

A variety of rumor-mongering sites—see, for instance, macrumors.com and appleinsider.com—have sprung up to try to pry these secrets out of Cupertino, Calif. (to which Apple has sometimes responded with lawsuits). But keeping up with all of them can become a hobby in its own right, and their accuracy is often iffy.

You're better off looking at how long a particular Apple product has been on sale, on the principle that the oldest models are most likely to be replaced with souped-up versions. You can read past product announcements at Apple's PR library (apple.com/pr), and the MacRumors site also offers a one-page summary (macrumors.com/buyersguide) of the lifecycles of Apple's computers and gadgets.

That page suggests that the iPod Touch and the iPod Shuffle are safe bets because the former had its memory doubled in February and the latter had its price cut later that month. It advises against buying an iPod Classic but is neutral on the iPod Nano. I'm not so sure about that last point: The Nano should benefit just as much as the Touch from the declining price of flash memory, so it's arguably overdue for a memory boost of its own.

If you time a purchase incorrectly, you may still have luck politely pleading your case at an Apple store. One or two readers have told me that Apple's stores allowed them to trade in an iPod they'd recently purchased there for a new model released days afterwards.

Tiny speakers help an iPod fill a room with sound

By **KEVIN HUNT**
© 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

So what if Micropod SE speakers look like interplanetary travelers. It's the other half of Scandyna's Dock Pack, a down-to-earth iPod dock, that will rock your world.

The Dock, as it is known, is more than just a booster seat-charger for your iPod. Despite weighing less than a pound, standing about an inch-and-a-half with the circumference of a coffee can, the Dock can power virtually any bookshelf speaker with its 15-watt amplifier.

Around back, a set of metal speaker binding posts await your speakers. Here, the Dock is mated with those space aliens, the Micropod SE. And what a handsome couple (or, if you're keeping score, threesome). There's also a basic mini-remote and a set of iPod adapters.

The package price (\$300) might seem inflated, but it's a bargain next to the individual prices for the speakers (\$199 a pair) and dock (\$219).

The curvy, unisex Micropod SE looked almost too familiar when this earthling opened the box. Maybe from a previous life? Turns out I had met their ancestors. The Pods were popularized more than a decade ago by British manufacturer B&W Loudspeakers.

The Micropods are a peculiar corporate hand-me-down to Denmark's Scandyna. The speakers retain the shape, even the darling little aluminum Sputnik feet, but are now made of plastic instead of glass fiber.

The latest Pod descendants, the Micropod and the rest of the Pod speakers and subwoofers (like the Drop, the Minipod, the Cindpod, the Megapod), are no less bashful than the originals. All the Pod speakers still have exposed drivers, including midrange-bass units made with Kevlar -- the rugged, lightweight material used in bulletproof vests.

Even Kevlar might not be tough enough to withstand a toddler's curiosity or other probing humanoids, so be sure to protect the Micropods. And these are, indeed, Micro: About 6 inches tall, 5 inches wide and not even 5 inches deep. They weigh less than 2 1/2 pounds each.

Scandyna's Dock Pack



Pound for pound—this entire system weighs under 6—the Dock Pack produces some of the most satisfying music in the galaxy. The synergy starts with the Dock's Class T amplifier and ends with the purity of the Micropod's Kevlar midrange driver and smooth-sounding, soft-dome tweeter.

The amplifier is actually a chip, developed by no-longer-in-business Tripath, that's remarkable for both the amount (15 watts) and quality of power it produces. It's also more efficient than a lowly night-light. Even at its highest volume, the Dock used only about 4 watts of electricity in my tests.

Backed by the Dock, the Micropods have a certain stateliness. These pipsqueaks can't hit the low notes, but they hit all the raw notes as George Jones sang "All My Friends are Strangers" from his session with Merle Haggard, "Jones Sings Haggard, Haggard Sings Jones." Jazz vocalist Dominique Eade's "What's the Use" was flat-out beautiful.

The silver Micropods (they're also available in white, black, blue, red and yellow) stood on the aluminum Sputnik spikes, but they also can be wall-mounted with an optional bracket. The

Dock has no controls, so the remote handles basic adjustments. Otherwise, you must access the iPod controls directly.

Aside from revealing the power is on, the Dock's two blue indicator lights don't help much. The smaller light, which apparently should flicker to indicate volume changes, isn't sensitive enough. And what was Scandyna thinking by matching a jet-black dock with a white power cord?

I couldn't help but wonder how the Dock would fare with bigger speakers. So I cuddled, then burped, the little Micropods and put them to bed. Then I hooked up the Dock to a pair of Infinity Primus 150 speakers, maybe four times as big and six times as heavy as the Micropods and ...

Out of this world. Either alone or together, the Micropod SE and the Dock are premium priced. But good deals can be found online—I've seen the Dock Pack for as low as \$150.

That's a small price to become one of the Pod People.

Hunt is The Courant's consumer electronics columnist.

Island Snapshots



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday greetings go out to Angel Catungal of Shirley's Coffee Shop, who is celebrating his birthday today, April 11. Greetings come from your colleagues.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



VISITING AUTHOR
Visiting Native American author Georgia Perez talks about the role of parents in the prevention of diabetes during a visit at the Oleai Elementary School Tuesday afternoon. The NMI Council for the Humanities hosted a free lecture by Perez, titled "Listen to Your Dreams and Follow Your Heart," on April 9, at the Visitors' Center Theater of the American Memorial Park.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SESSION WITH CUC
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero answers a question from vice speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero during Wednesday's CUC meeting with legislators at the House chamber on Capital Hill.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela signs the proclamation declaring April 25 to 19 as National Library Week while Saipan Southern High School librarian Sudi Napalan looks on, during a proclamation signing ceremony at the Mayor's office in San Antonio Wednesday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



SCIENCE AND HEALTH FAIR
San Antonio Elementary School's 6th graders Maggie Maratita and Edinna Capeda demonstrate their experiment called "Cloud in a Bottle" during the school's Science Fair Week and Health day celebration Wednesday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



RESIDENCY FORUM
TaoTao Tano president Greg Cruz gives his remarks while Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff listens during a forum called "Long-Term Resident Status: Issues and Possibilities for Change Under CNMI Law," inside the Monte Carlo bar in Chalan Piao Wednesday night last week.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



TSL DONATION
Sinapalo Elementary School in Rota proudly displays their check for \$5,800 from Dr. Tan Siu Lin's PSS Donations. Funds will go toward the construction of bookshelves and storage shelves throughout the entire school. Pictured from left to right are Vanessa Q. Hocog, acting principal; Theora Manglona, student; and Sara Echanis, teacher.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



San Antonio Elementary School's kindergarten students eat their healthy lunch during the Science Fair Week and Health day celebration Wednesday morning.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PTI WINNER
Ed Manglona is the winner of a brand new TREO 755 from PTI during HANMI's 7th annual golf tournament that was held at the Marianas Country Club on Saturday, April 5, 2008. John Mantanona, the sales manager of PTI presented the smart PDA phone to Manglona along with six months of free airtime, data, and a golf cooler bag to the lucky winner. Congratulations from PTI!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



VOLCANO MONITORING TALKS
Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio with U.S. Geological Survey officials Tom Murray and Dr. John Eichelberger following their discussion on volcano monitoring efforts in the CNMI.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PRAYER VIGIL

A nonresident worker covers her face against the glare of the setting sun as she listens to the speaker during the prayer vigil for federalization at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Nonresident workers are on spotlight as they sign a petition calling for permanent immigration status in the CNMI.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Nonresident workers and other members of the community sign a petition addressed to the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and Nikolao Pula of the Department of the Interior.



Rep. Tina Sablan listens to other speakers during the vigil.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Nonresident workers and other members of the community stand as they sing a prayer during the vigil for federalization at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



A U.S. flag waves while nonresident workers and other members of the community listen to the speaker during the prayer vigil.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Rep. Tina Sablan delivers her remarks during the prayer vigil.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Fewer nonresident workers and members of the community showed up in Saturday's prayer vigil compared to previous vigils and rallies.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human Dignity Movement and supporters gather for a group photo shortly after the prayer vigil for federalization at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Saturday.

Life & Style

Gnarls Barkley:
The Happy CoupleBy RICHARD CROMELIN
© 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Most pop acts would love to have a hit single, but be careful what you wish for. Topping the chart can be hazardous to an artist's health, especially an out-of-nowhere hit by an unknown.

It can make a career, of course, but it can also overexpose the performer and create a backlash, set up impossible expectations and box an artist in. Just ask Beck, who spent a few years trying to shed the slacker image slapped on him by his breakthrough single "Loser."

That was the prospect facing Gnarls Barkley when "Crazy" became a massive hit in 2006. It put the fledgling team of composer-producer Danger Mouse and singer-lyricist Cee-Lo Green on the map, collecting critical accolades and two Grammy awards. But would it throw things off balance for a partnership that was just finding its footing?

"I think if we had been a genuinely new group in our early 20s, that would have been a problem," said Danger Mouse, who's 30 and began making records in the late '90s. "We wouldn't have had much context for what was going on."

"But I think we both had plenty of experience. ... It was a big leap in certain ways, but it didn't make us leap very much. We kind of stayed where we were mentally. We had each other to bounce off of."

"Crazy's" popularity also kept Danger Mouse and Cee-Lo on tour much longer than planned, another challenge for two musicians not especially attuned to the road life. That turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Says Danger Mouse, "I think the intensity of being with each other for that year and change—most people, I guess, it kind of breaks them up; for us, it got us kind of closer."

How close? Well, for all the photos promoting their new album, "The Odd Couple," they're dressing as bride and groom.

"Those images of the marriage and the name 'Odd Couple' are symbolic of our commitment to it," Green said, sitting in a Beverly Hills hotel suite with Danger Mouse during a recent round of prerelease interviews.

"He's the bride," Danger Mouse added, indicating the rotund singer sitting to his left. "You kind of could have guessed that, wouldn't you?"



Danger Mouse, left, and Cee-Lo Green dress as groom and bride to promote their new album, "The Odd Couple."

Yeah? Good. ... I think most people would have guessed who would have been the one to have the (courage) to wear a dress."

Danger Mouse's playful moment is a brief shift from the serious, analytical tone that marks most of his conversation. A music junkie (he tries to listen to a new album every day) with a taste for both indie and hip-hop, the Los Angeles-based artist, born Brian Burton, has always been a heavy thinker as well as an instinctive experimenter.

He became a critical and cultural hero in 2004 when "The Grey Album," his unauthorized mixing of Jay-Z and Beatles recordings, demonstrated the potential of the mash-up and became a flash point in the debate over sampling and intellectual property rights. Since then he's carved a distinguished career as a producer.

His beautiful "bride," Green, 33, was an offbeat presence on the Atlanta rap scene, working with the Goodie Mob and releasing two solo albums that established his persona as a soul/rap preacher of boundless imagination.

When the two started collaborating, with Green writing lyrics and adding melodies to tracks created by Burton, the chemistry was cooking. They financed the recording of "St. Elsewhere" by themselves, then signed with

the Atlantic Records-affiliated Downtown label.

The U.S. sales of 1.4 million were accompanied by critical acclaim and a widespread fascination with an enterprise that made a mission of being hard to define, from its jokey name to its eclectic music to its policy of dressing in costume—including "Wizard of Oz" and "Star Wars" characters as well as chefs and astronauts—on stage.

"Gnarls has really defied expectations at every step," said Jeff Antebi, the group's Los Angeles-based manager. "I think the industry perception was it was going to be studio-driven project, but the band did a year's worth of worldwide touring. ..."

"They are both very conscious about sustaining momentum for not just themselves, but for music fans in general. They might defy expectations again, because I'm positive they are already starting to conceptualize the notion of doing another album."

Not to get ahead of ourselves. The happy couple is still in honeymoon mode, ready for a next step into a future they're making up as they go along.

"We trusted each other even more," Burton said of the making of the new album. "We had listened to a lot of music together as well, and we just kind of continued on, really. ... We just started recording, and one of the

first songs was 'Save My Soul,' and it sounded like a Gnarls song. 'OK, we can still do this,' and we kept recording."

Reviews for "The Odd Couple," which was rushed out in mid-March after Internet leaks torpedoed its planned April release, have been more mixed than those for "St. Elsewhere," but Burton lines up with those who hear it as less immediately catchy but musically and emotionally deeper.

"Cee-Lo picks through that stuff I send him, and he picked the more challenging stuff. ... And he would do things with it—there was stuff that we did where initially I didn't know what to think myself, and when I sat with it, it made a lot more sense," Burton said. "I'm always experimenting; I'm always interested to see what he can possibly do with this."

"Some of his counter melodies, and even some of the changes, like how some of the changes are not as hooky as you think they are until you realize that they're very layered. ... He brings out stuff in the music sometimes that was almost accidental or that I didn't think was the main part of it, and he accents that thing."

Green doesn't say much this afternoon, but his work on "The Odd Couple" affirms his position as pop's operatic tenor of tormented soul. Even more than on "St. Elsewhere," his songs explore elemental struggles, with images of being "entered by evil" and "keeping the beast at bay."

"It's what I know best," he said softly. "It's what I'm most familiar with. Wish I had other things to think about, though." He laughs, adding, "The compositions themselves, they just reminded me of the lyrics and the life experience. It just reminds me of things I know to be true."

The album has its lighter moments too, but one thing it doesn't have is an obvious successor to "Crazy."

"I think we can commend each other on genuinely not even being concerned," Green said.

Adds Burton, "When we say we don't care, it's not that we're not happy about certain things. It's just that we know enough to not be too caught up in it. It's fun to have a big song that people can sing. ... When we started making this record, we loved the idea that people were going to wait to hear what we were going to do next. ... I don't know if we're going to have any other songs like that, but we had at least one."

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

Lush Life, by Richard Price (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: \$26) The layered lives of victims and perpetrators are explored in the aftermath of a Manhattan shooting.

The Appeal, by John Grisham (Doubleday: \$27.95) A billionaire enlists political help to kill a \$41-million jury award over toxic-waste dumping.

Change of Heart, by Jodi Picoult (Atria: \$26.95) A killer offers to donate his heart to his victim's sister.

The Silver Swan, by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt: \$25) Dublin pathologist Garret Quirke doubts suicide as the cause of a woman's death. -3

Remember Me? by Sophie Kinsella (Dial Press: \$25) An ambitious woman finds her fortunes improved after a three-year bout of amnesia.

A Prisoner of Birth, by Jeffrey Archer (St. Martin's: \$27.95) An illiterate Londoner is framed for his future brother-in-law's murder.

Life Class, by Pat Barker (Doubleday: \$23.95) Three art-school friends face World War I.

People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks (Viking: \$25.95) A rare-books expert traces the history of a priceless Jewish tome to 15th century Spain.

World Without End, by Ken Follett (Dutton: \$35) Children jockey for power in 14th century England.

Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana, by Anne Rice (Knopf: \$25.95) Jesus seeks a sense of purpose among his kin before facing his destiny.

Nonfiction

In Defense of Food, by Michael Pollan (Penguin Press: \$21.95) A look at dietary sacred cows.

Beautiful Boy, by David Sheff (Houghton Mifflin: \$24) A father recounts his son's descent into methamphetamine addiction.

STORI Telling, by Tori Spelling (Simon Spotlight: \$24.95) The 90210 star tells all.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

Human Smoke, by Nicholson Baker (Simon & Schuster: \$30) A revisionist look at the run-up to World War II.

The Third Jesus, by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$24) The case for a more mystical interpretation of Jesus.

The Age of American Unreason, by Susan Jacoby (Pantheon: \$26) Our descent into junk culture.

Chasing the Flame, by Samantha Power (Penguin Press: \$32.95) A biography of the chief of the U.N. mission to Iraq killed in a terrorist bombing explores religious extremism and ethnic struggle.

Stop Whining, Start Living, by Laura Schlessinger (HarperCollins: \$24.95) Tips on getting out of a rut.

Panama Fever, by Matthew Parker (Doubleday: \$29.95) The passion, power and human toll involved in the building of the Panama Canal.



New photos of Elvis in 1972 surface

NEWYORK (AP)—Never-before-seen photos have surfaced of Elvis Presley rocking Madison Square Garden in all his jumpsuited glory. The images were taken in 1972 by George Kalinsky, the official photographer of the famed arena, the singer's estate said Wednesday.

Kalinsky came across the photos while working on a campaign for a billboard company called "Great Moments in New York." Now one of them is on display as part of the campaign on a three-story billboard atop the Virgin Megastore in Times Square; it shows The King

Elvis Presley performs at Madison Square Garden in this June 1972 photo provided by George Kalinsky. AP

glancing up, his outstretched arms holding the cape of his glittering jumpsuit.

Kalinsky needed to get permission from Elvis Presley Enterprises, the business arm of the performer's estate, to reproduce Presley's image for the campaign. The estate asked if he had any more photos, and Kalinsky came back with about 40 unpublished images from Elvis' second-night performance at the Garden in 1972, said Kevin Kern, spokesman for Elvis Presley Enterprises.

Kern said a team of archivists well-acquainted with publicized images of Presley were quite impressed with Kalinsky's photos.

"What came from their mouths was 'Wow!'" Kern said.

"These are very crisp, clear, professional photos of Elvis. It's such a rare find."

The collection will be displayed at Graceland starting Memorial Day weekend as part of "Elvis Jumpsuits: All Access," an exhibit that will also feature more than 50 of Elvis' famous jumpsuits.

Kalinsky said he didn't realize at the time that he had so many good shots.

"When I photographed the show, I thought I only had a few good ones," he said. "I just never really looked at the files until recently."

Kalinsky has been the official Garden photographer for more than 40 years. He's also the official photographer of Radio City Music Hall and

a special photographer for the New York Mets.

He has photographed scores of celebrities and famous athletes, including Muhammad Ali, Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti and Pope John Paul II, and his images have appeared in Life, Sports Illustrated, Esquire, Time and Newsweek. Kalinsky's images of Jimi Hendrix and Sinatra are also part of the Times Square billboard campaign.

Back in '72, he went backstage to meet Presley.

"He was electrifying in his white jumpsuit, with his cape on," Kalinsky remembered. "He was quite humble, but he had an aura. There are very few people who have triple-X charisma, and Elvis was one."

High school seniors get an 'F' in Finance

By **JEANNINE AVERSA**
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Young people's financial know-how has gone from bad to worse.

High school seniors, on average, answered correctly only 48.3 percent of questions about personal finance and economics, according to a nationwide survey released Wednesday by the Federal Reserve. That was even lower than the 52.4 percent in the previous survey in 2006 and marked the worst score out of the six surveys conducted so far.

With home foreclosures at record highs, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke stressed in a

cult or possible to make their monthly mortgage payments, home foreclosures took off, some lenders went out of business and financial institutions suffered multibillion losses as mortgage-backed investments soured.

Problems spread into other areas, affecting more creditworthy borrowers. And the housing, credit and financial slumps are threatening to push the economy into a deep recession.

Bernanke, in his remarks, didn't talk about the state of the economy or offer clues about

the Fed's next move on interest rates.

Many economists believe the Fed will lower rates lat-

er this month as part of a multi-pronged approach to bolstering the economy and trying to ease the credit crunch.

In this year's survey, only 16.8 percent correctly answered that stocks likely would offer the higher growth over 18 years of saving for a child's education, while 37.3 percent thought a U.S. savings bond - one of the most conservative investments - would offer the highest growth.

Nearly 53 percent said they would have no liability if their credit card was stolen and a thief ran up \$1,000 worth of debt. (Liability is limited to \$50 after the credit-card issuer is notified.) Only 13 percent knew they might have to be responsible for \$50.

"The survey demonstrated that graduating high school seniors continue to struggle with financial literacy basics," said Lewis Mandell, professor of finance and managerial economics at SUNY Buffalo School of Management.

ON THE NET
Jump\$tart Coalition
for Personal Financial
Literacy: <http://www.jumpstart.org>

speech that young people must sharpen their financial knowledge so they are in a better position to make sound investment decisions throughout their lives.

"The financial preparedness of our nation's youth is essential to their well-being and of vital importance to our economic future," Bernanke said at the Fed event on financial literacy.

"In light of the problems that have arisen in the subprime mortgage market, we are reminded of how critically important it is for individuals to become financially literate at an early age so that they are better prepared to make decisions and navigate an increasingly complex financial marketplace," the Fed chairman added.

When the housing market collapsed, home values fell and interest rates rose. That especially clobbered people with tarnished credit or low incomes holding more risky "subprime" mortgages. As these homeowners found it increasingly diffi-

In Loving Memory

Gregoria Camacho Cabrera

Also known as "Nan Gora"

Was born on May 25, 1929. Was called to eternal life on April 5, 2008 at the age of 78

In her new life she now joins her

Husband: †Juan San Nicolas Cabrera "Potu"

Son: †Juan Camacho Cabrera

Mother: †Maria Aguon Camacho

Father: †Vidal Palacios Camacho

Mother-in-Law: †Ana San Nicolas Cabrera "Potu"

Father-in-Law: †Juan Taisague Cabrera "Potu"

Brothers/Brothers-in-Law, Sisters/Sisters-in-Law:

Her memories will live on in the hearts of

Daughter & Son-in-Law: Ignatia Marie Cabrera Aldan
and Jesse John Benavente Aldan "Kaching"

Grandchildren: Colleen Joyce Camacho Cabrera

John Gregory Cabrera Quitugua

Tiana Rose Cabrera Quitugua

John Anthony Reyes Hofschneider

Reared Daughter & Son-in-Law: Esther Elizabeth Camacho Suzuki and Robert Suzuki

Reared Grandchildren: Robert Kiyomichi Camacho Suzuki Jr.

Anthony Kiyooki Camacho Suzuki

Angelynn Kiyo Camacho Suzuki

Goralynn Jon Kiyomi Camacho Suzuki

Brothers & their Spouses: Bishop Tomas Aguon Camacho

Francisco Aguon Camacho and Isabel Villagomez Camacho

Juan Aguon Camacho and Emilia Villagomez Camacho

Roman Aguon Camacho and Beverly Manibusan Camacho

and numerous nieces and nephews

Daily masses will be held at 6:00 am and nightly rosaries will be said at 7:00 pm at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Her remains will leave the Borja's Funeral Home at 7:00 am on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Last respects may be paid following her arrival at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on the same day at 11:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral and burial services will follow at the Mount Carmel Cemetery. Chalan Kanoa.

The Family

Bob Marley's mother dies in Miami at 81

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Cedella Booker, the mother of Jamaican music legend Bob Marley, has died, a family spokesman said Wednesday. She was 81. Booker died in her sleep Tuesday night at her home in Miami, apparently from natural causes, spokesman Jerome Hamilton said.

Booker, a Jamaica native, was 18 when she married Norval Marley, a British man 32 years her senior. Their son brought Jamaican reggae music to international prominence, becoming its international image. Bob Marley died in Miami of a brain tumor in 1981 at age 36.

"Mrs. Booker was the matriarch of a movement so powerful that the mystical qualities of the Marley musical legacy remain strong and potent," Jamaica Information Minister Olivia Grange said.

After Norval Marley died in 1955, Booker married an Ameri-



Cedella Booker, mother of Jamaica's reggae legend Bob Marley, looks at his picture during the 20th anniversary of his death, at her home in Nine Mile, St. Ann parish, Jamaica, in this May 11, 2001 file photo.

Jason Reitman, Kevin Smith blog for NHL

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Jason Reitman, Lauren Conrad, Dierks Bentley and Kevin Smith are among the celebrities who will blog about their love of hockey on the National Hockey League's Web site.

Beginning Wednesday, more than a dozen celebs will follow their favorite teams through the Stanley Cup playoffs, said NHL spokeswoman Bernadette Mansur.

"As NHL.com bloggers, they can be irreverent and candid about their love for the NHL," she said.

A native Canadian who grew up in Los Angeles, Reitman, 30, became a hockey fan seven years ago. Since then, the Oscar-nominated director ("Juno") has dedicated himself to the cause, directing commercials for the NHL and serving on its entertainment advisory board.

"I'd come to really love the game and I was just a little upset because I felt there was more of an opportunity for particularly Americans to know about the game and follow the game," he told The Associated Press.

Reitman told the league to call him if he could be of any help and they asked him to blog.

"This year is a little depressing because my two teams, the (Vancouver) Canucks and the (Los Angeles) Kings, neither of them are in the playoffs," he said, adding that the invitation came "when the Canucks still had a chance."

"Now the Canucks aren't

in it. So what I decided is that I'm going to write a kind of mythical blog about what the Canucks and Kings would be doing had they still been in," he said. "In my version, for the first time in NHL history, the Canucks and the Kings will be the first two Western Confer-



Jason Reitman arrives to the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, in this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008 file photo.

ence teams to actually meet in the Stanley Cup finals."

Conrad described herself as "a casual hockey fan" who has followed the Kings for the past two seasons.

"I'm blogging about the NHL playoffs because I love live hockey and I thought this would be a fun way to get more involved with the postseason," the reality-TV star said in a statement.

This is the second year that stars from movies, music and television have brought their hockey fan-dorm to the blogosphere. Celebrities blogging about the 2008 quest for the Stanley Cup include David Boreanaz, A.J. Buckley, Tom Cavanagh, William Fichtner and Geoff Stults.

In Celebration of Her New Life Basilisa Magofña Lieto

July 15, 1923 — April 4, 2008

In her new life she now joins her:

Husband: Ramon Iguel Lieto
Daughter: Maria Magofña Lieto

She is survived by her children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses and great-grandchildren

- ✦ Jose M. / Dina I. Lieto
 - ✦ Noel Joseph I./Angelina F. Lieto
 - ✦ Herman John I. Lieto
 - ✦ Peter Mike I. Lieto
 - ✦ Felis Luis I. Lieto
- ✦ Miguel M. Lieto
 - ✦ Micaela Stephanie D. Lieto
 - ✦ Dyanalyn Mozelle D. Lieto
- ✦ Herman C. / Luella I. Lieto
 - ✦ Ray Herbass I. Lieto
- ✦ Rosa L. / Basilio C. Blas
 - ✦ George Felix L. Blas / Laura Ann T. DLG.
 - ✦ Georalyn Lixan DLG. Blas
 - ✦ Keoki Roneil DLG. Blas
 - ✦ Theresa Marie L. Blas / Peter James T. Diaz
 - ✦ Te'inah Thesarosa B. Diaz
 - ✦ Peter James II B. Diaz
 - ✦ Donna Rose Lieto Blas
 - ✦ Elizabeth L. Blas / Jose I. Sablan
 - ✦ Jovina Lirosa Lieto Blas
 - ✦ Raybiana Joniz Blas Sablan
 - ✦ Zachary Haini Lieto Blas
- ✦ Andresina M. Lieto
- ✦ Faustina L. / Leoncil R. Yaguel
 - ✦ Arby Brayan L. Yaguel
 - ✦ Alex Bernard L. Yaguel

She will also be remembered by numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren and friends.

Nightly Roasry is being prayed at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Basilio C. and Rosa L. Blas at As Mahetok at 7:30 p.m.

Her remains will leave Commonwealth Health Center of Friday, April 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. and will be escorted to her daughters' residence (Rosa L. Blas) at As Mahetok.

On April 12, 2008, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. and interment will follow immediately at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank You.
The Family



can man and settled in Delaware. She wrote two biographies of her famous son and recorded two albums, "Awake Zion!" and "Smilin' Island of Song."

"She was a star in her own right," Jamaica Prime Minister Bruce Golding said in a statement. "Her life was one of hardship, struggle and eventual fulfillment, and through it all, she exuded hope, strength and confidence."

Everyone in St. Ann's parish knew Booker as "Mama B," said Harry Shivanani, a family friend and general manager of Bob Marley's mausoleum.

"She loved cooking," Shivanani said. "Mama would make you the best pudding ever."

Robert Lalah, a columnist for the Jamaica Gleaner, interviewed Booker in February while she celebrated her son's birthday.

"She was a typical Jamaican grandmother," he said. "She was very warm, very friendly."

Booker is survived by two children and several grandchildren, including Ziggy Marley, who won four Grammys with the Melody Makers, a band that included brother Stephen and sisters Sharon and Cedella.

Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Lalane Celis Delos Santos Lizama

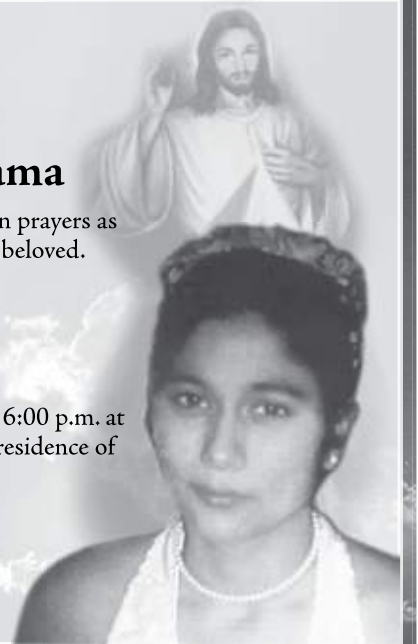
would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved.

Mass will be offered at St. Jude Church.
Sunday 6:00 a.m. Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 6:00 a.m.

On the final day Monday 4/14/08, mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church with dinner to follow immediately at the residence of Mr./Mrs. Albert Lizama in Koblerville.

Your presence and prayer will be greatly appreciated.
Un Dangku Na Si Yu'us Maase.

From the Family



Gossip blogger Hilton gets radio show

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Gossip maven Perez Hilton will soon be dishing it up on the airwaves as well as in the blogosphere.

The celebrity blogger, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, will be the star of twice-daily radio minishows that begins broadcasting on May 5, The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday on its Web site.

"It will hopefully introduce me, potentially, to a whole new

audience," Hilton said.

The three-minute-long radio shows will air during morning and evening drive times in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and other big cities, with more markets planned for the next few months, the paper reported.

The show, "Radio Perez," represents another step toward media ubiquity for the blogger, whose Web site routinely posts salacious details about gossip

targets such as Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan.

A feature film featuring Hilton is due out this summer and a book by the blogger is in the works. Warner Bros. Records and Hilton are also reportedly negotiating a development deal that would make him an executive on the label.

"Radio Perez" is the first offering from the newly established "C" Student Entertainment Corp., the Journal

reported. The company was created by former Premiere Radio Networks chief Steve Lehman and Andy Schuen, former head of programming at MTV and other cable stations and at Infinity Broadcasting, now CBS Radio.

E-mails seeking comment from Hilton and Schuen early Wednesday were not immediately returned. No phone listing was available for "C" Student Entertainment.

Another star eliminated from 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Last place became last dance for Adam Carolla on "Dancing With the Stars."

The 43-year-old comedian and his professional partner, two-time champ Julianne Hough, were eliminated from the ABC dance-off during Tuesday's results show.

Carolla incorporated a unicycle into the couple's paso doble, but the performance earned a meager 19 out of 30 from the judges during Monday's show.

"You are such a lovable character that (we) just want you to do well, but unfortunately you're not much of a dancer," head judge Len Goodman said.

Judges scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

Carolla said he "had the time of my life" during his four weeks on the show.

"I recommend this experience to anyone who's scared of everything," he said. "You at home, there's something that scares you. There's something that's your 'Dancing With the Stars.' Embrace it. Don't run from it."

Looking at his partner, Carolla said, "I lost 25 pounds of fat and I gained 105 pounds of angel."

Tuesday's show also featured a mini-competition between two



AP
In this picture made available by ABC, Adam Carolla and Julianne Hough perform in Los Angeles on the "Dancing with the Stars" show broadcast on Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

8-year-old ballroom-dance couples and a live performance by Sheryl Crow, who performed her breakthrough hit, "All I Wanna

Do," and her latest single, "Out of Our Heads."

The remaining competitors include pro football player Jason

Ex-Miss Nevada USA takes plea deal

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- A dethroned Miss Nevada USA agreed Wednesday to pay fines for five misdemeanor traffic violations in exchange for prosecutors dropping a charge of resisting arrest.

Katherine N. "Katie" Rees, 23, avoided trial by entering no contest pleas. If she had been convicted of the dropped misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest, she could have faced six months in jail.

"I'm just really glad this is over. It was a really traumatic experience and I'm ready to move on," Rees said outside the courtroom.

However, Rees and her lawyer, Michael Cristalli, said they are considering filing a federal police brutality and civil rights claim against the two Las Vegas police officers who they allege broke Rees' front tooth by slamming her against the hood of her car during her

arrest Feb. 6.

Rees pleaded no contest to speeding, operating a motor vehicle without proof of insurance and driving with an expired registra-



Rees

tion, a suspended license and suspended registration. She agreed to pay up to \$1,312 in fines.

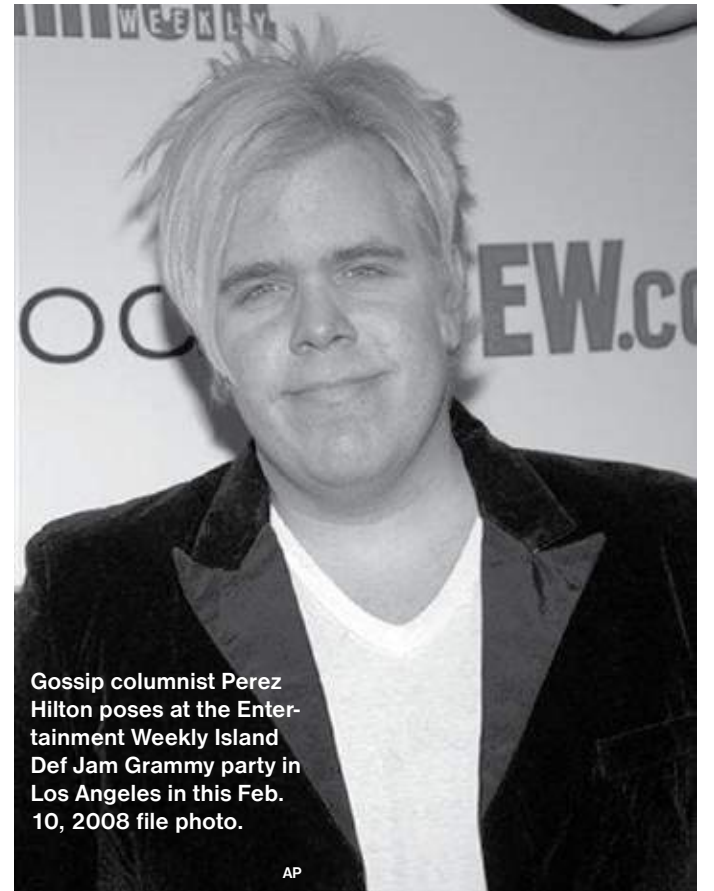
Cristalli said Rees did not know her license and registration were suspended when she

went to buy ice cream at about 3 a.m. She was stopped in a residential area several miles west of the Las Vegas Strip, and complained that she had no phone and way to get home after the officers impounded her car.

"It was only when she asked for assistance to get home that they initiated the arrest and used excessive force causing substantial injury," Cristalli said.

The Miss Universe Organization and co-owner Donald Trump dethroned Rees in December 2006 after racy photos appeared on the Internet showing her kissing other young women, exposing one of her breasts and pulling down her pants to show her thong underwear at a party in Tampa, Fla.

Rees appeared in court 80 minutes late, wearing a blue silk designer outfit and blue suede four-inch heels. Justice of the Peace Joe M. Bonaventure accepted Cristalli's apology and explanation that Rees' tardiness was his fault, not hers.



Gossip columnist Perez Hilton poses at the Entertainment Weekly Island Def Jam Grammy party in Los Angeles in this Feb. 10, 2008 file photo.

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Nim's Island

Friday	4:00	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:20
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:20	

Jodie Foster, Abigail Breslin
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

College Road Trip

Friday	4:25	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:05
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:05	

Martin Lawrence, Raven Symone
Comedy • Rated G

Leatherheads

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

George Clooney, Renee Zellweger
Sports, Comedy • Rated PG13

Drillbit Taylor

Friday	4:10	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:15	

Owen Wilson, Alex Frost
Comedy • Rated PG13

Superhero Movie

Friday	4:15	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:00	

Drake Bell, Sara Paxton
Comedy, Satire • Rated PG13

Synopsis

After being bitten by a genetically altered dragonfly, high school loser Rick Riker develops superhuman abilities like incredible strength and armored skin. Rick decides to use his new powers for good and becomes a costumed crime fighter known as "The Dragonfly." However, standing in the way of his destiny is the villainous Lou Landers. After an experiment gone wrong, Lou develops the power to steal a person's life force and in a dastardly quest for immortality becomes the supervillain, "The Hourglass."

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears A Who

Friday	4:20	@	@
Saturday	1:15	4:20	@
Sunday	1:15	4:20	@
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	@	

Jim Carrey (v), Steve Carell (v)
Family, Animated • Rated G

Definitely, Maybe

Friday	4:05	@	@
Saturday	1:05	4:05	@
Sunday	1:05	4:05	@
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	@	

Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

10,000 BC

Friday	@	7:10	9:50
Saturday	@	7:10	9:50
Sunday	@	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs	@	7:10	

Omar Sharif, Steven Strait
Drama, Adventure • Rated PG13

Never Back Down

Friday	@	7:30	9:55
Saturday	@	7:30	9:55
Sunday	@	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs	@	7:30	

Sean Faris, Djimon Hounsou
Action, Drama • Rated PG13

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AP

Canadian actor Mike Myers, reacts to photographers at the London premier of their animated film 'Shrek the Third', in London in this June, 11, 2007 file photo.

Mike Myers to host 2008 MTV Movie Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Party on, Mike Myers. The star of the "Wayne's World," "Austin Powers" and "Shrek" films will host the 2008 MTV Movie Awards.

The 17th annual show will air live from the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., on June 1.

The celeb-filled event is the network's irreverent nod to the typical awards shows. Categories for Golden Popcorn trophies include best kiss, best villain and best comedic performance.

Nominees will be announced in May.

Myers, star of the upcoming film "The Love Guru," previously hosted the show in 1997. "The Love Guru" opens in theaters June 20.

"Mike Myers blew us away last time he hosted the MTV Movie Awards with his 'Lord of the Dance' and over-the-top musical productions," Van Toffler, president of MTV Networks Music, Logo and Films Group, said in a statement Wednesday.

"He keeps creating iconic film characters that have been etched in the minds of MTV's audiences forever," Toffler said. "'The Love Guru' is sure to spur yet another cultural movement, so we're elated to have Mike back as our host."

Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Apprentice") is executive producer of the show.

"Hosting the MTV Movie Awards is like a party, but without having to do beer runs in your mom's minivan; we do beer runs in Will Smith's four-story motorhome," Myers, 44, said in a statement.

Radcliffe to reprise nude role in Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe, the star of the "Harry Potter" movies, will make his Broadway debut in September, playing the disturbed stable boy in a revival of Peter Shaffer's play, "Equus," it was announced Tuesday.

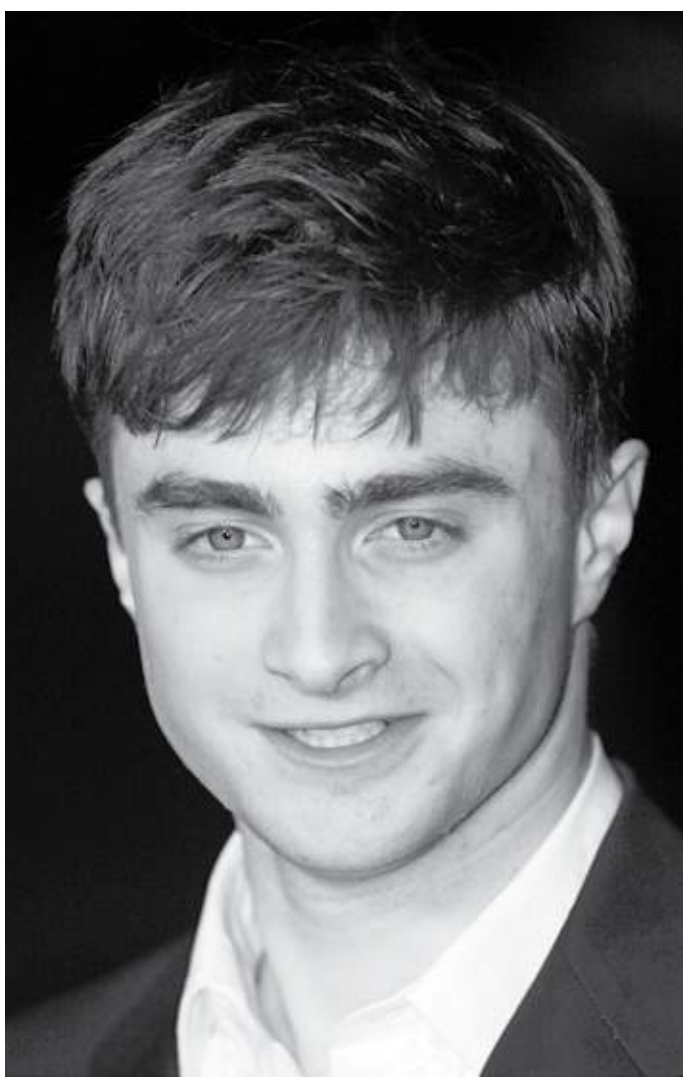
Radcliffe, 18, earned rave reviews for his performance in the London production of the Tony Award-winning play. He also received loads of media attention for appearing naked onstage—a departure from his wholesome image as the bespectacled boy wizard in the big-screen adaptations of J.K. Rowling's best-selling fantasy novels.

"Equus" begins previews Sept. 5 for a limited 22-week run at the Broadhurst Theatre. The play opens Sept. 25-Feb. 8, 2009. Thea Sharrock directs.

Richard Griffiths, who portrays Harry's mean Uncle Vernon in the "Potter" movies, reprises his London role as the psychiatrist who treats the stable boy, who has blinded six horses.

Actor Daniel Radcliffe arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "December Boys," in this Sept. 6, 2007, file photo in Los Angeles.

AP



Jackson dropped from hospital lawsuit

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)—A judge has dropped Michael Jackson from a lawsuit filed by the family of a woman who died at a hospital soon after she was moved to make room for the pop star.

Judge Rodney Melville on Tuesday dropped Jackson from the lawsuit against Marian Medical Center in response to a challenge from Jackson's attorney, Timothy Gorry. Melville

rejected a similar motion by an attorney for the hospital.

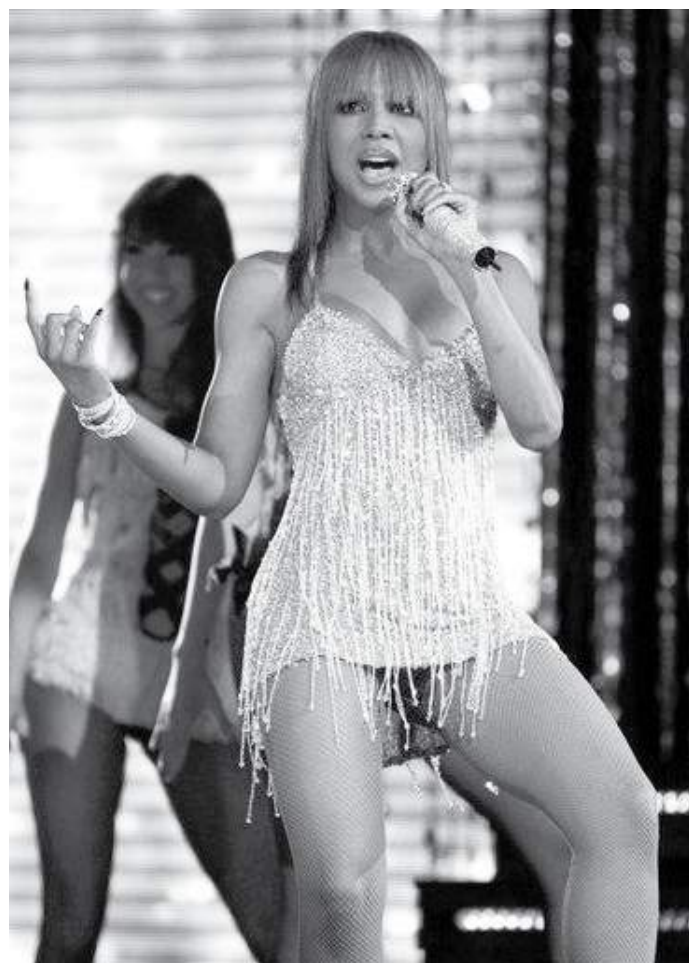
The attorneys could not be reached for comment Wednesday, and a phone message left for a Jackson representative was not immediately returned.

The family of Manuela Gomez Ruiz had sued Jackson and Marian Medical Center for infliction of emotional and mental distress, claiming she was kept from critical care after she had a heart at-

tack on the same day Jackson was brought in with flu-like symptoms during his 2005 child-molestation trial. Jackson was acquitted in the case.

The lawsuit said the 73-year-old Ruiz was on life-support after a massive heart attack and was moved from a two-bed room so Jackson could occupy it by himself. It complained of an "outrageous, circus-like atmosphere" in the last hours of Ruiz's life.

More Braxton shows in Las Vegas canceled



AP

Toni Braxton performs during half time the NBA All-Star basketball game in Las Vegas in this Feb. 18, 2007, file photo.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Four more Toni Braxton shows have been canceled as she recuperates following her hospitalization with chest pain. "We're going to go ahead and cancel her shows tonight and for the rest of the week," Flamingo Las Vegas hotel-casino and Harrah's Entertainment Inc. spokeswoman Deanna Pettit said Wednesday. "We expect she'll return to the stage next Tuesday."

Pettit says the 40-year-old Grammy winner is recovering at home following her release Tuesday afternoon after precautionary tests at a Las Vegas area hospital.

The exact cause of Braxton's chest pain has not been made public. Braxton has been treated in the past for pericarditis, a viral inflammation of the heart.

Pettit says the Flamingo Showroom is offering refunds for the canceled shows.

Braxton is a six-time Grammy winner for songs including "Un-break My Heart." Her Las Vegas act, "Toni Braxton: Revealed," is in the midst of a two-year run at the Flamingo.

Supermom has given her all to everyone except herself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old mom with three grown daughters. I gave up my whole life to be a stay-at-home parent. I was a room mother at school and a bus driver, and did everything I could to be the best mom my kids could have. Now they are grown with children of their own. I help with the grandkids, but I never feel appreciated.

I tried to do everything the opposite of how my parents raised me. My mother was absent, and my dad was a drunk who abused us. I'm beginning to wonder—have all the sacrifices I made mattered? Or have I wasted my life trying to be a good mom and no one cares?

—SUPERMOM IN WELSH, LA.

DEAR SUPERMOM: You were a diligent parent when your daughters were growing up, and you have continued generously giving of your time with your grandchildren. But it seems you forgot completely about yourself during those years.

Rather than looking for "appreciation" from your daughters, don't you think it's time you started devoting some time to yourself and your own interests? I do. Take some time for yourself. You have earned it. And, perhaps, if you're less available, you will be more appreciated.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After reading the columns you printed with letters from readers describing what they think is wrong with American society, I think it's time to talk about what is RIGHT in our society. I, for one, would like to mention the endless compassion we are capable of giving, and how, in times of some of our greatest tragedies, we have come together in spite of our differences to support and help one another.

Yes, there are many negatives that can easily be listed about problems in our society, but wouldn't the greater challenge—and a more productive one—be to list the positives about it?

—REBECCA IN NEW YORK

DEAR REBECCA: I received a great deal of feedback regarding not only the question I posed to readers—"What is society's greatest problem?"—but also some of the thought-provoking responses that appeared in my column (Feb. 5 and 6). While many people told me they enjoyed the intellectual exercise, others felt that those columns were uncharacteristically negative. (My feeling is that finding solutions to problems entails first identifying them.)

However, your point is well taken. So, readers, pick up your pens or head for your keyboards, and share with me—and each other—your thoughts on what is right in our society.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently won a local vocabulary contest. In school, I am called "the walking dictionary." People often approach me to find out the meaning of words.

Since winning the contest, I have become more popular, and my boyfriend has been trying to use big words when he talks to me or to our friends. The problem is, he uses them incorrectly or mispronounces them. I know he's trying to impress me, but it's embarrassing. How can I tell him to stop without hurting his feelings?

—THE WALKING DICTIONARY IN GEORGIA

DEAR WALKING DICTIONARY: People sometimes mispronounce words because they learned them by reading them rather than hearing them used. Give your boyfriend points for being intellectually acquisitive.

The next time he uses a word incorrectly or mispronounces it, offer a gentle correction—but be sure to do it in private. That way, he won't be embarrassed.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

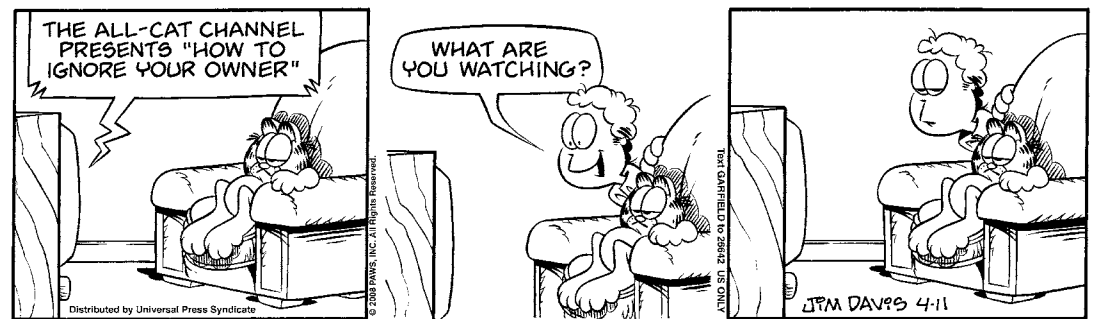
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



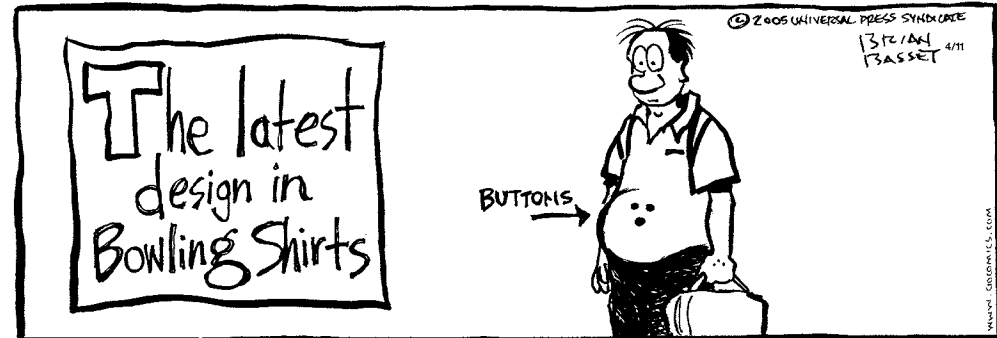
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jungfrau, e.g.
4 Seethe
8 Dis-patches, "Sopra-nos"-style
12 Crew tool
13 Probabil-ity
14 Highland hillside
15 Inspire optimism
17 Grassy stretch
18 Layer
19 Establish
20 Hack-neyed
22 Adoles-cent
24 Malaria symptom
25 Indemnify
29 Law deg.
30 Reacted to fireworks
31 By way of
32 Light-hearted
34 33-Down's due

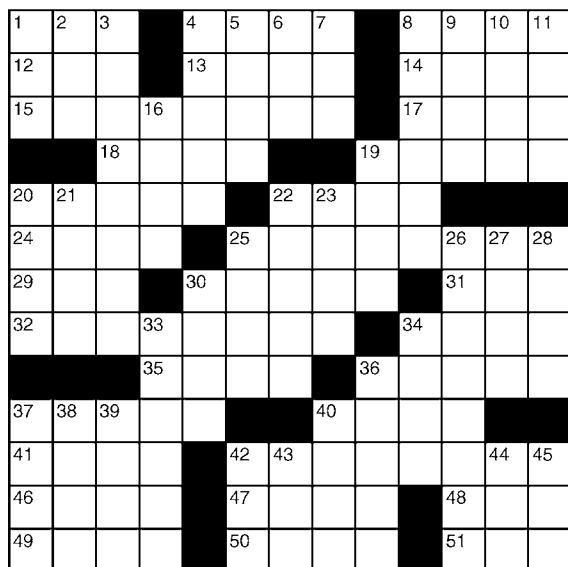
DOWN

1 "You've got mail"
2 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
3 Jut
4 One over par
5 Stench
6 Altar
7 1960s
8 Rectan-gular, maybe
9 Herr's Mrs.
10 Bambi, e.g.
16 Cattle, old style
19 Nourish
20 Youngster among
16-Down
21 Look lech-erously
22 Western resort lake
23 Scratched (out)
25 Wolf-man's inspiration
26 Shade
27 Sty cry
28 Appoint-ment
30 Shrek is one
33 Landlord
34 Chimed
36 Emerald, for one
37 Guns the engine
38 Medley
39 Radius neighbor
40 Remedy
42 Spigot
43 Waste no time
44 No longer chic
45 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	A	M	H	U	B	B	I	L	E
T	O	G	O	E	R	A	A	M	E	N
U	P	O	N	A	L	L	S	P	E	D
B	I	G	G	E	R	L	A	I	R	
	R	O	D	E	O	C	L	O	W	N
O	L	D	E	N	D	O	E	P	R	O
V	I	A	L	P	I	N	M	E	A	D
E	R	E	J	O	T	T	A	R	P	S
R	A	D	I	O	P	H	O	N	E	
A	V	E	C	I	T	S	E	L	F	
P	O	L	O	W	L	T	R	U	E	
P	O	U	R	R	O	E	R	I	L	E
P	O	S	Y	N	E	D	O	N	U	S

Yesterday's answer 4-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tricia Helfer, 34; Meshach Taylor, 61; Louise Lasser, 69; Joel Grey, 76

Happy Birthday: Don't let what others do or say adversely affect you. Set your own standard and live by it. Look at what's ahead as a new beginning and use each opportunity to expand your mind and raise your learning curve. The success and accomplishment you feel will attract others to your side. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 25, 39, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions will be out of control. Don't let comments made by others weigh you down or cause you to say something you'll regret. Don't give ultimatums if you don't want to be faced with one yourself. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you don't tell everyone what you can do, how will they know? You will have plenty of options if you take over whatever you get involved in today. A short trip will pay off in information received. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gifts, debts paid back, investment returns or winnings of some sort are in the stars. Opportunity will come through an old acquaintance. Something that happened way back when will help you make a decision about something you are facing. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your emotions get the better of you, especially when dealing with change. Learn to adapt quickly. Love may cause you some prob-

lems if you let your jealousy show. Be willing to give the ones you love a little space. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your plans to yourself and as simple as possible. Love and romance are in the stars. Pay close attention to the rules if you are traveling or dealing with institutions, large corporations, government or legal paperwork. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Have some fun but don't let it cost you because you are trying to impress someone. The people you want to attract will not be enticed by trinkets or flashy entertainment. An offer will come your way if you keep things honest and simple. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't cause problems by being insensitive to the feelings of someone in your life who depends on you for comfort and security. Tone down demonstrative responses to people who may have a greater interest in you than you realize. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go as far as you have to go to get things done. You'll have to be a little aggressive. Change is good and will help you broaden your options. Don't let love or emotional matters cost you. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stick close to home and don't spend money. Problems with the people in your life who count will fester if you are frivolous. Losses will take place if you are tempted to gamble or spend on luxury items. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't count

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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on anyone or anything today. You stand a good chance of being talked up and promised things that are not going to come to fruition. Don't waste your time on anything that is not a sure thing. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a look at your past to see what you need to change to create a better future. Children or younger people in your life may cause you stress and worry. Physical changes made today will not turn out the way you want. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Line up a day of pampering and entertainment. You deserve a break so don't hold back. Call someone you like to be around and get him or her to join in the fun. Good times and lots of laughs will give you a new perspective. *****

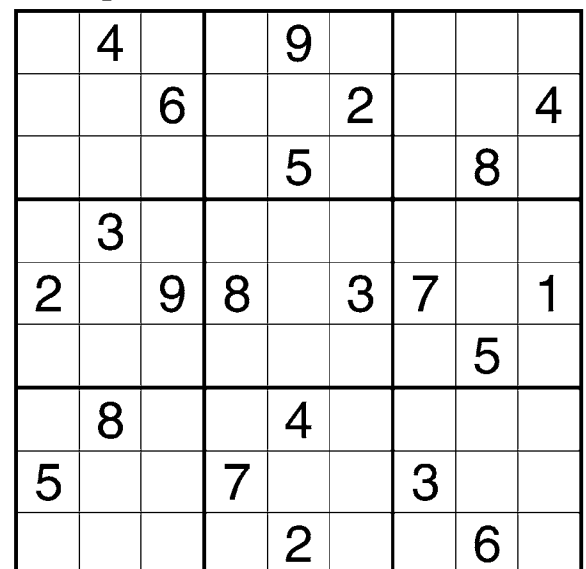
Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, outgoing and outspoken. You are emotional, sensitive and passionate regarding your beliefs and traditions. You are a strong communicator.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

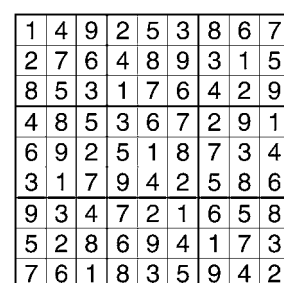


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

4/10

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DEEPWATER DRILLING

Solution: 8 letters



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Anchor, Base, Casing, Deck, Derrick, Engineer, Environment, Feet, Fill, Flow, Geology, Hazards, Hurricanes, Lake, Levels, Measure, Meters, Mexico, Ocean, Offshore, Operations, Pipe, Plunge, Pumps, Rigs, Riser, Safety, Seek, Sense, Slope, Solution, Station, Storms, Sunk, Surface, Technology, Temperatures, Testing, Tubing, Units, Vessel, Wave, Whales, Winds

Yesterday's Answer: Park City

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Includes \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1 per book for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5234, ext. 6988. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

Tigers score 7 runs in first win after 7 losses



BOSTON
(AP)—Detroit finally won, beating the Boston

Red Sox 7-2 in the American League on Wednesday after scoring just 15 runs in losing its first seven games.

Marcus Thames and Carlos Guillen homered, Edgar Renteria had three hits and Ivan Rodriguez got the 2,500th hit of his career. Still, no team has made the postseason after an 0-7 start.

The Tigers teed off on Jon Lester (1-2) with four runs in the fourth, rallying from a 2-0 deficit.

Jeremy Bonderman (1-1) picked up the win.

Royals 4, Yankees 0

At Kansas City, Missouri, Zack Greinke threw eight scoreless innings, and Kansas City won a second straight game from New York for the first time since sweeping a three-game series in 2005 at Kauffman Stadium.

Greinke (2-0) gave up six hits, walked two and struck out two, lowering his ERA to 0.60.

With rain in the forecast, Yankees manager Joe Girardi scratched starter Ian Kennedy and started Brian Bruney for his first career start after 157 relief appearances. The umpires, however, allowed the teams to play through the rain, which started in the first. By the time Girardi went to Kennedy in the sixth, the Yankees trailed after reliever Kyle Farnsworth (0-1) surrendered two runs.

Twins 12, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Jason Kubel hit a grand slam and drove in six runs, and Minnesota's 12 runs were its most since beating Chicago 20-14 and 12-0 on July 6, 2007.

The Twins led 7-0 after a five-run third in which they knocked out Chicago starter John Danks (0-1).

The White Sox chipped away at the lead with Nick Swisher, Paul Konerko and Joe Crede each hitting solo drives against Minnesota's Scott Baker, but the comeback ended when Kubel went deep in the sixth.

Scott Baker (2-0) lasted five innings, allowing five hits while striking out seven.

Mayo to declare for NBA draft



LOS ANGELES
(AP)—O.J. Mayo is leaving Southern California after one season to enter the NBA draft.

Mayo plans to hire an agent, which would prevent him from returning to the Trojans. He said he plans to finish his spring classes and then prepare for the June draft.

"I am so thankful for the fans and alumni at USC and around the nation that have been so supportive of me and my teammates throughout the season," Mayo said in a statement. "I'd like to express my appreciation to my coaches and teammates for their support in one of the most important decisions I've ever made."



Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland, right, is congratulated by pitcher Todd Jones after beating the Boston Red Sox 7-2 for their first win of the season at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

Angels 9, Indians 5

At Anaheim, California, Mike Napoli hit his first career grand slam, a second-inning drive, and Garret Anderson, Casey Kotchman and Vladimir Guerrero also homered for Los Angeles.

Dustin Moseley (1-1) was staked to a 6-0 lead and allowed four runs and nine hits in six innings. Cleveland closed with four runs in the sixth, but the Angels came right back when Guerrero hit a three-run homer against Jensen Lewis in the seventh.

Paul Byrd (0-2) allowed six runs and five hits in three innings, raising his ERA to 11.05.

Athletics 6, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, Mark Ellis had four hits, including the tying triple in the ninth, then scored the go-ahead run in Oakland's win over Toronto. Ellis went 4-for-5 with two stolen bases.

Jeremy Accardo (0-2) blew his first save in four chances.

Fernando Hernandez (1-0) worked one hitless inning for the win in his

major league debut. Oakland left-hander Greg Smith also made his major league debut, starting in place of Justin Duchscherer (strained biceps). He worked six innings and allowed three runs, two earned.

Mariners 7, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jarrod Washburn (1-1) allowed one run in seven innings, and Jamie Burke hit a three-run homer to lead Seattle.

Adrian Beltre also homered for Seattle, winners of two in a row following a four-game skid. Ichiro Suzuki, Jose Lopez and Jose Vidro also drove in runs for the Mariners.

Andy Sonnanstine (1-1) allowed four runs and seven hits over six innings for Tampa Bay, which has lost four straight.

Mets 8, Phillies 2

At New York, Mike Pelfrey gave New York's injury-riddled pitching staff an encouraging boost, leading the Mets to a win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Phillies played a painfully sloppy game without injured MVP shortstop Jimmy Rollins, committing four errors that led to six unearned runs.

The Mets ended a nine-game losing streak to Philadelphia.

Pelfrey tossed five effective in-

nings in his first start of the year to help the Mets bounce back after losing their home opener to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 3

In Phoenix, Arizona stretched its winning streak to six games by edging Los Angeles.

Eric Byrnes, who went 3-for-5, ended the afternoon for Dodgers pitcher Hiroki Kuroda, hitting a two-out, bases-loaded single that brought in the tying and go-ahead runs in the sixth.

Kuroda, in his second start since coming from Japan, gave up four runs—two earned—in 5 2-3 innings.

Marlins 10, Nationals 4

In Washington, Mike Jacobs hit two homers to help Florida to a 10-4 win over Washington and the best record in the National League East division.

One of Jacobs' homers capped a seven-run inning, backing Scott Olsen's solid pitching.

The pair of two-run shots gave Jacobs four homers in the past five games, a surge that featured his first career game-ending homer Friday, his first career grand slam Saturday—and now his first multi-homer

game since 2005.

The Nationals have lost six consecutive games.

Olsen went 7 2-3 innings—one out shy of tying his career high—allowing only four hits and four walks.

Rockies 12, Braves 6

In Denver, Colorado put up its highest run total of the young season to beat Atlanta and win its third straight.

Yorvit Torrealba hit a three-run home run to cap off a six-run third inning for the Rockies.

Cubs 6, Pirates 4, 15 innings

In Pittsburgh, Felix Pie's two-run single in the 15th inning saw Chicago outlast Pittsburgh in the second extra-inning game in a row between the teams.

Pie's hit to left field off Phil Dumatrait with the bases loaded saw the Cubs win their fourth in a row.

Twice the Pirates tied the Cubs with home runs to extend the game, in the ninth and 14th.

Cardinals 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Albert Pujols hit his first two homers of the year and St. Louis beat Houston.

Pujols, who also had an RBI single, ended the longest home run drought to start a season in his career, hitting two in his ninth game.

Reds 12, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Cincinnati scored 10 straight runs in a victory over Milwaukee.

Adam Dunn and Corey Patterson each hit two-run homers, and Brandon Phillips scored twice off a pair of heady baserunning plays.

Phillips helped put the Reds on top for good in the sixth after the normally sure-handed second baseman let a grounder go through his legs, allowing two unearned runs that cost Cincinnati the lead in the fifth.

Giants 1, Padres 0

In San Francisco, California, Daniel Ortmeier hit a two-out, RBI double in the ninth inning off San Diego's Heath Bell to clinch a tight game.

San Francisco won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Ortmeier's double bounced at the base of the center field wall and drove in pinch-runner Rajai Davis from second base.

Both teams had plenty of opportunities to score, but it wasn't until Ortmeier's hit off Bell that the Giants broke through.

NCAA BRIEFS

UCLA's Love, Collison undecided on draft

LOS ANGELES (AP)—UCLA coach Ben Howland says All-American Kevin Love and teammate Darren Collison have not yet decided whether they will make themselves available for the NBA draft. Howland dismissed a report on the Los Angeles Times' Web site that said the players had decided to leave and were expected to hire agents, which would prevent them from returning to the Bruins next season. "It's an erroneous report," Howland said, adding that both players were upset about the report because they have yet to discuss their future with their families. College players have until April 27 to declare for the June draft.

John Calipari wins Naismith award

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—John Calipari was named Naismith National Coach of the Year by The Atlanta Tipoff Club on Wednesday. The Memphis coach led the Tigers to the NCAA title game where they lost 75-68 in overtime to

Kansas. It's the second Naismith award for Calipari, who won in 1996 after leading Massachusetts to the Final Four. Memphis won 38 games and was ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in the AP poll for a school-record 16 straight weeks. Calipari is one of five coaches in NCAA Division I history to lead two different programs to a No. 1 national ranking. The others were Frank McGuire, Ralph Miller, Roy Williams and Eddie Sutton.

Championship game ratings increase

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP)—Television ratings for the women's NCAA championship game and the entire tournament were up from last year. Tennessee's 64-48 victory over Stanford on ESPN on Tuesday night earned a 3.0 rating, up 30 percent from the 2.3 for last season's Tennessee-Rutgers game. For the entire tournament, games on ESPN averaged a 1.4 rating, compared with 1.0 in 2007. The average rating for games on ESPN2 increased from 0.5 to 0.6.

James leads Cavaliers in comeback over Nets



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James played with an aching back and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied for a much-needed win over the New Jersey Nets 104-83 in the NBA on Wednesday.

James, who didn't practice on Monday and Tuesday because of back spasms, scored 33 points as the Cavaliers overcame a 14-point deficit.

The Cavaliers used a 9-0 run early in the fourth quarter to take an 85-77 lead. As the Cavaliers took control, New Jersey went scoreless on 10 straight possessions until Vince Carter's two free throws with 4:36 left. The Nets scored nine points in the fourth quarter.

Hornets 122, Timberwolves 90

At Minneapolis, Chris Paul had 19 points and 16 assists to help New Orleans beat Minnesota.

Peja Stojakovic scored 24 points and David West had 22 for the Hornets.

Rashad McCants had 23 for the Timberwolves, who have lost six straight.

The win gave the Western Conference-leading Hornets a franchise-best 55 wins, beating the record set in 1996-97.

Wizards 109, Celtics 95

At Washington, Antawn Jamison returned from a shoulder injury to score 27 points and help Washington beat Boston to win the season series over the league's top team.

Gilbert Arenas, in his third game back from knee surgery, added 13 points in a relatively low-key 24 minutes.

Paul Pierce scored 28 points, and Kevin Garnett had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who had 21 turnovers and have more or less been in exhibition mode since clinching the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

76ers 101, Pistons 94

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, hitting a season-high four 3-pointers to help Philadelphia defeat Detroit.

Samuel Dalembert added 20 points and 13 rebounds for Philadelphia and Iguodala had six assists, five rebounds and five steals.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past New Jersey Nets' Richard Jefferson in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 9, 2008, in Cleveland.

The victory kept the Sixers in the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, a game ahead of Toronto and a game behind Washington, who both won on Wednesday.

Chauncey Billups had 18 points to lead Detroit, which already has locked up the No. 2 seed in the East and again gave its reserves significant playing time.

Magic 115, Bulls 83

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 30 points and 14 rebounds for Orlando.

Howard played with six stitches in

his upper lip, the result of a collision in practice with reserve Marcin Gortat on Tuesday. Howard recorded his NBA-leading 67th double-double, one short of Shaquille O'Neal's franchise record from the 1992-93 season.

Kirk Hinrich led Chicago with 19 points, and Tyrus Thomas tied a career high with five blocks.

Raptors 111, Bucks 93

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 32 points and 11 rebounds and Toronto ended a three-game losing skid.

Former Raptor Charlie Villanueva had a season-high 38 points and a career-high seven 3-pointers. He scored 25 of Milwaukee's first 29 points.

Anthony Parker added 18 points for the Raptors, who have struggled despite clinching a playoff spot last week. Toronto lost 15 of its previous 21 games.

Knicks 109, Bobcats 107

At New York, Fred Jones made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:47 left and New York tied a season high with its third straight win.

Jamal Crawford scored 18 points for the Knicks, who avoided the first 60-loss season in franchise history.

Jason Richardson scored 25 points, and Raymond Felton and Emeka Okafor had 24 apiece for Charlotte, whose franchise-record four-game road winning streak was snapped.

Rockets 103, SuperSonics 80

At Houston, Rafer Alston scored 18 points and Luis Scola added 13 points and 12 rebounds to help Houston beat Seattle.

Tracy McGrady sat out with a sore left shoulder that's bothered him for more than a week, but the Rockets didn't miss him against the Sonics, who've lost 11 straight road games and 18 of their last 20 games overall.

Kevin Durant scored 26 for the Sonics, who've lost seven straight meetings with Houston.

Suns 96, Spurs 79

At San Antonio, Amare Stoudemire scored 21 points, five other Phoenix players scored in double digits, and the Suns won their second game in two nights.

Shaquille O'Neal had eight of his 16 points in the decisive fourth quarter and grabbed nine rebounds for Phoenix. Steve Nash scored 12 points—including eight in the fourth quarter—and had 10 assists.

Tim Duncan scored 23 points and had 10 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 20 points for San Antonio, which remained in second place behind New Orleans in the West. Phoenix stayed sixth.

Close races help the NBA bounce back

NEW YORK (AP)—David Stern has all kinds of data showing NBA attendance is up, TV ratings are up and merchandise sales are up.

Good news, obviously, but not the evidence he'd cite first when calling this a good year.

For that, the commissioner turns to a much different set of numbers: the Western Conference standings.

That's where he finds the deepest playoff race his league has ever seen, the catalyst for a remarkable turnaround. The NBA is a week away from closing a memorable regular season, bouncing back from perhaps the worst offseason it's ever endured.

And it's happened in the best way possible to Stern, with strong play and better story lines on the court that are just too good to be ignored.

"The basketball part is what has legs because the world is watching and they're really having a good time watching," Stern said.

Are they ever.

Throw in a too-close-to-call player

of the year race, the record-shattering re-emergence in Boston of the league's winningest franchise, and a flurry of blockbuster trades, and there's been no shortage of things to talk about for fans.

"The races, the Western Conference, you've got Boston back being one of the best teams, one of the storied franchises that has now come back to prominence. The Lakers are back up there again with the moves they've made. I think it's been a good year all the way around," Minnesota coach Randy Wittman said. "The more competition you have, like this year has been, the more interesting it is."

Only 21½ games separated the top six teams through Tuesday in the West, where somebody will have the best record ever for a non-playoff team and there's seemingly an important match-up every night. Denver visits Golden State on Thursday in a game that could help determine which team claims the last playoff spot, and the Lakers host the New Orleans Hornets on Friday in a

showdown featuring Kobe Bryant and Chris Paul, perhaps the two strongest MVP candidates.

No wonder viewership is up 12 percent or more on the National Basketball Association's American television outlets.

"Across what you're looking at, together with the improved ratings and the emergence of basketball as a primary story, from the Celtics to the Pistons to Kobe to everything going on in the West, it's come together in a very good way," Stern said.

The league drew more than 4.2 million fans, its highest attendance ever in March, and sales at the NBA Store in New York were up 46 percent from the same period last year, part of its overall 17 percent increase for the season.

One few could have seen coming last summer.

The NBA was thrown into a scandal by former referee Tim Donaghy, who admitted betting on games he officiated. Coming just weeks after an ugly championship series, when San Anto-

nio swept Cleveland in the lowest-rated finals ever, things rarely looked worse for the league.

"They were bad," Stern said. "But they were bad and they were extraordinarily disheartening and they focused on difficult issues, but we never thought that the foundation of our sport was threatened. We thought that important policies were implicated and we had to do a better job."

The Donaghy scandal dominated basketball news for a brief time, until the Celtics snapped the focus back to the game when they acquired Kevin Garnett from Minnesota. After winning 24 games in 2006-07, they've smashed the league record for improvement in one season, sold out every home game, and brought back a sector of fans who hadn't watched the NBA since the Celtics were good.

The league hasn't looked back since. "That's the way it should be," Rockets coach Rick Adelman said. "You don't want all those problems, you don't want all that negativity if you're trying to sell tickets and sell a product. The more we get away from that, the better off we'll be as a league."

British leader skipping opening ceremony



LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will skip the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics.

He became the second major world leader after German Chancellor Angela Merkel to decide to stay away from the opening ceremonies, although Brown's office insisted Wednesday that he was not boycotting the Olympics and would attend the closing ceremony.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said last month that he was debating not attending the opening ceremony.

Asked whether President Bush would go to the opening portion of the Olympics, White House press secretary Dana Perino demurred, citing the fluid nature of a foreign trip.

"It is extremely premature for me to say what the president's schedule is going to be" in August, she said.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and others have urged Bush to consider staying away from the opening ceremony as a way to underscore U.S. concerns about the recent unrest in Tibet and questions about China's relationship with Sudan.

Brown, too, has been under intense pressure from human rights campaigners to send a message to China. But his decision not to attend the opening ceremony is not an act of protest, a spokeswoman for his office said, speaking anonymously in line with government policy.

She said the decision was made weeks ago and was not a stand on principle.

"He had never planned to attend," she said. "There is absolutely no change in our position."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said in February that he expected many heads of state—including Bush, Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy—to attend the opening ceremony.

Hollywood director Steven Spielberg withdrew in February as an artistic adviser to the opening and closing ceremonies, saying China had not done enough to halt the bloodshed in Sudan's Darfur region. China buys much of Sudan's oil and supplies many of the weapons used in the Darfur conflict.

The leader of Britain's Liberal Democrat party, Nick Clegg, told British Broadcasting Corp. that Brown "seems to do the right thing late in the day when he is forced to do so because of public opinion."

London is hosting the next Olympics in 2012 and British officials were expected to be prominent at events throughout the games in China.

Cutler's comments surprise Elway



DENVER (AP)—John Elway understands why Jay Cutler recently called out a troubled teammate, he just wouldn't have taken the same approach. "I was surprised to hear it actually," the former Broncos quarterback said Wednesday.

Cutler, fed up with all the drama surrounding Brandon Marshall, lashed out at his No. 1 receiver and fellow third-year star, who suffered a gash on his right forearm while messing around last month.

"He's not my favorite person right now," the current Broncos quarterback said of Marshall.

Elway didn't think this particular incident necessitated Cutler's ire.

"Him cutting his arm is not that big of deal to me," Elway said. "Obviously, he was wrestling with his brother. He's still a kid."

Marshall, who emerged as Cutler's primary target in his breakout 2007 season, said he was horsing around with his older brother at a resort in Orlando, Fla., when he fell into a television set, cutting an artery, a vein, a nerve, two tendons and three muscles in his right arm.

It's not the first time Marshall

has found himself in the news. He faces a drunken driving charge stemming from an October incident.

Cutler said incidents like Marshall's accident simply can't happen.

Elway, the CEO of the Arena Football League's Colorado Crush, voiced his comments as he talked about his team's game Friday night with the Cleveland Gladiators, who are co-owned by Bernie Kosar. The two quar-

Elway appreciates Cutler's attempt to become more of a vocal leader.

"As a quarterback, you've got to take a leadership role," Elway said. "Jay has that last year under his belt. I'm sure he

feels a lot better where he's going. They need someone to take over. That's a good move on Jay's part.

"Bottom line, there's talk and there's wins," he said.

Elway couldn't recall exactly when he earned the trust and respect of his teammates. He said it just stemmed from winning games.

"You'll feel them follow you," he said. "There are different ways to lead - everyone has a different way. Jay will have his own personal way, too. It's just a matter of when you gain the respect of those teammates. That's when leadership comes. They respect what you're doing."

Although the Broncos have missed the playoffs the last two seasons, Elway isn't concerned about the direction of the team.

"I just know having been in that organization for 16 years, they're not trying to get worse," he said. "They're trying to get better."



AP
Colorado Crush co-owner John Elway sits for a live television shot promoting the Crush arena football game against the Cleveland Gladiators in Denver, Wednesday, April 9, 2008.

"If that's what Jay feels like he needs to comment on, he needs to do that," Elway said. "Personally, I would've done it to him. Even though I tried to settle things in the press, looking back over the years, it hasn't been the right way to do it."

terbacks, and their cities, are permanently linked thanks to their postseason meetings.

"Bernie was talking about taking me down on the field. I wouldn't feel comfortable unless they threw dog bones," Elway said with a grin.

Favre would help Packers if needed

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP)—If the Green Bay Packers are ravaged by injuries this season, Brett Favre might consider returning should the team reach out to him.

"It would be hard to pass up, I guess," he told the Biloxi (Miss.) Sun Herald. "But three months from now, say that presents itself, I may say, you know what, I'm so glad I made that decision. I'm feel very comfortable in what I'm doing and my decision."

"Yeah, I can probably be up there doing that and playing, but again, I don't know. It's only speculating. I think the world of that team. I had a lot of fun, not only this year, but over my career."

But if Aaron Rodgers went down with an injury?

"Aaron has fallen into a great situation," Favre said. "And if that opportunity presented itself and they did call, it would be tempting. And I very well could be enticed to do it."

Favre understands the kind of challenge he would face should he opt to go back to the NFL after ending his record-setting 17-year career. And he made it clear he is not changing his mind at this time.

"But to think that if they called me in October and told

me, 'Hey, we need you this week.' That would be hard," Favre said in a story that appeared on the paper's Web site on Tuesday. "I'm sure mentally, I would be refreshed. I'd be away from it for a long time. But mentally versus physically, the last thing I'd want to do is go up and it's 'Oh this is great' and all that stuff and me be excited and then just flop."

"You just can't show up and play."

There has been a steady flow of speculation that Favre would have a change of heart in the wake of the March 4 announcement the league's only three-time MVP was retiring.

"I guess the best response would be, right now no," he said of a possible return to the game.

Favre added he would not return unless he was in shape.

"It would be hard to go up there at 38. It was hard to stay in shape. I say that, I worked out and I worked out hard," he said. "Week in and week out, I was just drained. Finally, for the first time, I felt, not that 38 is old, but I looked around at practice and these guys are bouncing around. And I practiced every day and all the time people would ask me... 'How do you do it? Inside I'm saying, 'I have no idea.' It's a struggle."

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Dreams turn into Kabur's nightmare

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Korean Dreams turned into Bridge Capital-Kabur's latest nightmare, beating their opponents in extra innings, 13-7, in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League on Wednesday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Dreams of manager Park Sang Do needed 10 innings to end their two-game slump and secure their fourth win in six matches, while Kabur remained



Kabur pitcher Dave Kapileo throws at the plate in their game against the Korean Dreams in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League on Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

X-TERMINATORS

From Page 44

ing support from the speedy Elmer Esdreton, who chipped in 24 markers.

Robert Sanciangco ended up with 18 points, with most of his shots coming from cross-court outlet passes made by either Santos or Esdreton. Steve Rasa and Glen Mercurio scattered 10 each in the game.

Earlier, Price Costco bounced back from its 92-72 loss to TASI Tours Giants by grinding out a 96-94 win over MIGS.

Dave Sablan scored 22 points to lead the balanced scoring for the Storemasters with Stephen Johnson adding 14 markers.

Richard Brostrom netted 12 points, while Ivan De Vero finished with 11. Bill Babauta, Ernie Duenas, and Alex Lauron combined for 27 points to lead the

Storemasters' bench scoring.

Raymond Cadagat had another explosive game with 39 points but failed to lead MIGS to victory. Jun Tabora added 31 as they combined for more 70 of MIGS' total points.

No other player finished in double digits with Rasty Doronilla having nine markers, while Jun Dugos and Ed Pascual netted six apiece and Melbert Delarma finishing with three to round up MIGS' scoring.

Today's matches will have the OI'Aces testing the Star Waterkings at 6pm, while the Giants take on GEC Pawnshop in the second game.

On Sunday, April 13, after the HANMI Cup championship, the Fixers battle Bank of Saipan, while Taga Warriors clash with the CTSI Pacers.

First Game

Price Costco 96 – Sablan

night with the *Saipan Tribune*.

But the many time CNMI national tennis player conceded that Oman's home-court advantage could have a factor in the tie's results and because of this he wouldn't totally discount the possibility of the Middle East country upsetting the Islanders.

"For me, it's 50-50 because Pacific Oceania has the better players but Oman has the home court advantage."

Aside from Leong, Islanders captain Cyrille Mainguy has also tapped Juan Sebastian Langton of Samoa, his doubles partner Brett Baudinet of Cook Islands, and Cyril Jacobe of Vanuatu in the tie against Oman.

Leong has an 11-9 win-loss record entering the tie, while Langton has an even 18-18 mark, while Baudinet and Jacobe are 13-18 and 5-9 in Davis Cup play, respectively.

22, Johnson 14, Brostrom 12, De Vero 11, Babauta 9, Duenas 9, Lauron 9, Irinaka 4, Lose 4, Teo 2.

MIGS 94 – Cadagat 39, Tabora 31, Doronilla 9, Dugos 6, Pascual 6, Delarma 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-25, 44-41, 69-54. 96-94.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Jess Pabula.

Second Game

Advance X-Terminators

115 – Lim 25, Estolas 21, Mendoza 21, Pagarao 18, Ruloked 8, Gamboa 6, Barrios 5, Aranda 4, Artates 4, De Dios 2, Dayrit 1.

Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Haus 112 – Santos 39, Esdreton 24, Sanciangco 18, Rasa 10, Mercurio 10, Guiab 4, Marasigan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 28-24, 60-49, 88-85, 115-112.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Michael A. White.

Khalid Al Nabhani, Mohammad Al Nabhani, and Sulaiman Al Rawai, meanwhile, will see action for the Oman side, which will be skipped by Majid Abdullah Mandhari.

Khalid Al Nabhani comes to the tie with a 48-38 win-loss record, while Mohammad Al Nabhani sports a 34-26 slate. Al Rawai, for his part, has lost all three of his Davis Cup matches.

In their only head-to-head match-up, Pacific Oceania beat Oman, 2-1, in Dubai in their Group A Round Robin Asia/Oceania Zone Group III tie way back in 1996.

Last Monday, the Islanders held their first practice session at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat and Mainguy described conditions as "very hot with temperatures soaring into the 30s under a blazing sun and not dipping below 26 at night."

with her homer coming after Jovie Omar's two-run shot. Omar went 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

Doris Rangamar only went 1-for-3 but had three RBIs and one run.

Camacho, Omar, and Rangamar were also at the forefront of DCCA's offense in their 22-12 win over Finance.

Camacho blasted an inside-the-park home run to lead DC-

CA's 10-run third inning scoring, while Omar added a three-run inside-the-park four-bagger. Rangamar went 4-for-5 with a double and a solo inside-the-park round-tripper in the sixth.

In the men's division, Procurement & Supply stayed alive in the playoff round after slipping out an 20-19 decision against Ports Police, while Law & Order trounced Labor, 20-9.

winless after five starts.

Kabur only committed eight errors but seven of those came in the top of the 10th when the Dreams scored six times with no outs. The Dreams also had eight errors, which Kabur failed to capitalize.

Justin Reyes went 2-for-4 with one run and a triple, while John Reyes went 3-for-5 with two runs and a stolen base. Jun Salana only went 1-for-2 but had two RBIs to go with the one run he scored in the fifth inning.

Joab Thomas, Jason Reyes, and Shane Mendiola held Kabur

to a 3-for-36 or 0.083 batting. Thomas had his first start of the season pitching six innings giving up three earned runs on three hits with eight strikeouts and six walks.

Jason Reyes pitched 1 1/2 no-hit innings with one strikeout and three walks but Kabur managed to score twice to tie the game when Dennis Renguul scored on a pass ball, while Jason Haynes touched home plate on a Jordan Reyes throwing error.

Yamada came in when John Tutty was about to bat midway in the eighth and immediately struck out the first three batters he faced. He pitched 2 1/2 no-

hit innings with nine strikeouts and two walks.

Yamada held Kabur scoreless especially in the 10th retiring Haynes before walking McQuinn Masaharu, who stole second and third. He struck out Tutty but walked Hector Efrain to put runners in the corner.

Yamada got out of the jam when he struck out Poland Masaharu to preserve the win for the Dreams.

Today's game is between the two remaining undefeated teams this season as defending champion YCO Corp.-Tanapag Falcons clash with the league-leading Rock Steady at 6:30pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	62	16	.795	—
x-Philadelphia	40	38	.513	22
x-Toronto	39	39	.500	23
New Jersey	32	46	.410	30
New York	23	56	.291	39 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Orlando	49	29	.628	—
x-Washington	41	37	.526	8
Atlanta	36	42	.462	13
Charlotte	30	49	.380	19 1/2
Miami	14	64	.179	35

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Detroit	55	23	.705	—
x-Cleveland	43	35	.551	12
Indiana	34	44	.436	21
Chicago	30	48	.385	25
Milwaukee	26	52	.333	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New Orleans	55	23	.705	—
x-Houston	53	25	.679	2
x-San Antonio	53	25	.679	2
Dallas	49	29	.628	6
Memphis	21	57	.269	34

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Utah	52	26	.667	—
Denver	47	31	.603	5
Portland	39	39	.500	13
Minnesota	19	59	.244	33
Seattle	18	61	.228	34 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	53	25	.679	—
x-Phoenix	53	26	.671	1/2
Golden State	47	31	.603	6
Sacramento	36	42	.462	17
L.A. Clippers	23	55	.295	30

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 115, Chicago 83
Toronto 111, Milwaukee 93
Washington 109, Boston 95
Philadelphia 101, Detroit 94
Cleveland 104, New Jersey 83
New York 109, Charlotte 107
New Orleans 122, Minnesota 90
Houston 103, Seattle 80
Phoenix 96, San Antonio 79

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	71	757	520	2143	30.2
Bryant, LAL	78	751	594	2238	28.7
Iverson, Den.	78	670	618	2049	26.3
Anthony, Den.	73	700	450	1903	26.1
Stoudemire, Phoe.	75	678	530	1891	25.2
Martin, Sac.	60	412	496	1427	23.8
Nowitzki, Dall.	73	591	462	1713	23.5
Redd, Mil.	67	524	390	1561	23.3
Jefferson, N.J.	77	581	518	1752	22.8
Bosh, Tor.	62	470	442	1390	22.4
Maggette, LAC	67	443	531	1490	22.2

Davis, G.S.	78	621	311	1718	22.0
McGrady, Hou.	62	524	228	1360	21.9
J. Johnson, Atl.	78	621	305	1709	21.9
Carter, N.J.	71	554	338	1534	21.6
Richardson, Char.	78	614	220	1677	21.5
Jamison, Wash.	75	590	316	1610	21.5
Boozer, Utah	77	684	281	1649	21.4
Paul, N.O.	75	600	307	1594	21.3
Jefferson, Minn.	77	681	268	1630	21.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Biedrins, G.S.	316	506	.625
Chandler, N.O.	351	571	.615
Howard, Orl.	551	926	.595
O'Neal, Phoe.	308	523	.589
Stoudemire, Phoe.	678	1155	.587
Childress, Atl.	314	547	.574
Smith, Minn.	296	525	.564
Lee, N.Y.	323	580	.557
Brewer, Utah	333	599	.556
Curry, N.Y.	297	544	.546

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	77	270	841	1111	14.4
Camby, Den.	75	224	775	999	13.3
Chandler, N.O.	74	309	572	881	11.9
Duncan, S.A.	73	225	612	837	11.5
Jefferson, Minn.	77	294	568	862	11.2
Okafor, Char.	78	243	583	826	10.6
Boozer, Utah	77	192	620	812	10.5
Odom, LAL	73	188	576	764	10.5
Dalembert, Phil.	77	276	514	790	10.3
Jamison, Wash.	75	206	560	766	10.2

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, N.O.	75	858	11.4
Nash, Phoe.	77	860	11.2
Williams, Utah	78	828	10.6
Kidd, Dall.	76	771	10.1
Calderon, Tor.	77	633	8.2
Davis, G.S.	78	593	7.6
James, Clev.	71	517	7.3
Iverson, Den.	78	566	7.3
Felton, Char.	75	543	7.2
Billups, Det.	73	507	6.9

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	6	1	.857	—
Toronto	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Boston	4	5	.444	3
New York	4	5	.444	3
Tampa Bay	3	5	.375	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	6	2	.750	—
Chicago	5	3	.625	1
Cleveland	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Minnesota	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Detroit	1	7	.125	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	5	3	.625	—
Philadelphia	4	5	.444	1 1/2

New York	3	4	.429	1 1/2
Atlanta	3	6	.333	2 1/2
Washington	3	6	.333	2 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	7	2	.778	—
Milwaukee	6	2	.750	1/2
Chicago	5	3	.625	1 1/2
Cincinnati	5	4	.556	2
Pittsburgh	3	5	.375	3 1/2
Houston	3	7	.300	4 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	7	2	.778	—
San Diego	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Colorado	4	5	.444	3
Los Angeles	4	5	.444	3
San Francisco	3	6	.333	4

Yesterday's Games

Arizona 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 4, 15 innings
Florida 10, Washington 4
N.Y. Mets 8, Philadelphia 2
Cincinnati 12, Milwaukee 4
St. Louis 6, Houston 4
Colorado 12, Atlanta 6
San Francisco 1, San Diego 0
L.A. Angels 9, Cleveland 5
Detroit 7, Boston 2
Oakland 6, Toronto 3
Seattle 7, Tampa Bay 1
Kansas City 4, N.Y. Yankees 0
Minnesota 12, Chicago White Sox 5
Baltimore at Texas, ppd., rain

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BSML Standings

	W	L
Rock Steady	5	0
Tanapag Falcons	4	0
Korean Dreams	4	2
Ford Rangers	3	1
D9ers	2	3
Tigers	1	4
Komoro	1	5
Kabur	0	5

FMI Standings

	W	L
Advance X-Terminators	2	0
Shirley's Coffee Shop	2	1
OI'Aces	1	0
TASI Tours Giants	1	1
GEC Pawnshop	1	1
Price Costco	1	1
MIGS	0	2
SMF-Seabridge	0	2

Little League Standings

Majors

	W	L
Patriots	6	1
OI'Aces	6	1
Survivors	6	2
Dragons	6	2
Red Sox	6	2
Hustlers I	5	1
Dolphins	5	3
Braves	4	2
Twins	4	4
Pirates	2	4
Athletics	2	5
Hustlers II	1	4
McDonald's	1	6
Dare JPO's	1	5
Lions	0	6
Suns	0	7

DCCA

From Page 44

back title bid.

Camacho went 4-for-4 with four runs, two doubles, an RBI, and one stolen base. She had an RBI double in DCCA's four-run second inning.

Nadia Tagabuel also went 4-for-4 with a solo inside-the-park home run in the first inning

7-on-7 women's football concludes tomorrow

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The Inaugural Women's Football

Committee is set to end its 7-on-7 league on Saturday with two games to be played at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

Take 5 battles Dora Laura Scora at 8am followed by the Victorious Secret-Tradewinds match. The awarding will take place immediately after the final game.

League co-organizer Becca Newman said they have met their goals for the league. "This small-sided league has been very successful for the women's program. The goals of this league were to get more women involved in playing soccer and to enhance women's skills in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere."

Newman said they attracted 75



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The captains of the participating teams in the 7-on-7 league pose for a group photo after Saturday's games at the Garapan Elementary School field.

players where they evenly divided them into five teams. "Because of the [Women's] National team's training, most [of them] did not participate, so we had many first-time volunteer captains and co-captains to lead their teams."

Chiara Fudge, who just arrived on Saipan late last year, said joining the women's league is one of the best decisions she had ever made. "When I first set out to play soccer I was a little apprehensive because I was such a novice player, but I was welcomed from the moment I stepped onto the field."

Fudge said the co-captains of her team and her teammates helped her to push herself and learn the game. "But more importantly they helped me to have fun. Participating in the [7-on-7] league was all about good sportsmanship, the love of the game and having a good time."

"That is why I enjoyed myself and would definitely do it again

in the future. We were more than a team we were a sisterhood."

Trade 5 has Maria Ornes and Nicolette Seckler as co-captains, while Dora Camacho and Laura Williams are the leaders of Dora Laura Scora. Vanessa Pritchard and Toi Smith are the co-captains for Tradewinds, while Divya Sharma and Katie Busenkell heads Victorious Secret. Kickin' Back, the fifth team, has Alleny Tenorio and Lovelle D'Lonsol as their captains.

In other news, WFC will also be holding its first registration for their regular league—the full 11-player games—on Saturday.

The league is set to open in May and Newman said interested female players could sign up on Saturday. Registration fees have not yet been determined so female players can sign up without payment.

For more information, email Newman at nnewman112@hotmail.com.

Points at stake in CNMI junior tennis

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

CNMI junior ranking points will be at stake in the 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical Center CNMI Junior Tennis Championships, which opens on April 18 at the American Memorial Park courts.

The two three-day long tournament will give away 1 1/2 times the points for participants who want to earn CNMI Junior rankings in time for the International Tennis Federation-North Pacific Qualifying event on Guam in June.

The 2008 Spectrum Electric Inc.-Marianas Medical Center CNMI Junior Tennis Championships is the third event organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association after the Coconut Classic Tennis in February and the Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament held in the last weekend of March and last week.

The first three days of the tournament will be played from April 18 to 20, while the final leg will be from April 25 to 27.

The deadline for submission of entries is on Monday, April 14, 6pm and the registration fee is \$7.50 per person and per event. All checks should be made payable to NMITA.

Lila Mailman will serve as the tournament director, while NMITA vice president and CNMI national coach Jeff Race is the chief referee with the AMP courts as the headquarters for the games.

Events to be played are boys' and girls' Under-9 -13, and -18 singles and the boys' and girls' Under-12 and -16 doubles.

Entry forms must be submitted to Race via email at jeffrace@pticom.com or any tournament official. You can also email Race for more information or get in touch with any tournament official.

SERGEI BARGAMOTOV

Amy Arenovski watches the direction of her return in this file photo taken during her girls' 13-and-under match in last month's Pacific Islands Club-Gatorade Tennis Tournament at PIC courts.



CWGA Member tourney moved to east course



Instead of the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, the CNMI Women

Golf Association will hold its Members Annual Two-Day Golf Tournament this weekend, April 12 and 13, on the east course.

"Due to west course undergoing green repair, the east course will be used instead for both days," according to club secretary Lorraine Babauta.

She also added that the banquet for the Members Annual Two-Day Golf Tournament will

be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel beginning 6pm.

Babauta also said that a boatload of prizes are also in store for participants and winners alike.

"There will be at a minimum 20 prizes to compete for, starting with total gross with first to fifth place prizes, total net with first to fifth place prizes and the point system competition with prizes from first to 10th place," she said.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the

sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude,

and conduct-adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

The association was established in March 2007 with Noriko Togawa serving as president, Lou Kim as vice president, Aya Matsumoto as treasurer, Babauta as secretary, and Tudela, Bobbie Guerrero, and Dolores Yamagishi acting at directors. (Mark Rabago)

Deleon Guerrero is SGA April Ace

Last year's Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces champion Larry I. Deleon Guerrero finished with a net score 68 to win the SGA April Ace held last Sunday at Coral Oceana Point.

The 20-handicapper Deleon Guerrero shot a 43 and 45 at the front and back nines for a gross of 88 to enjoy a two-shot lead over Jose I. Sablan and 15 other SGA members that joined the monthly ace.

Sablan, who had a 23 handicap, shot a 46 and 47 for a 93 gross and 70 net to place second while Art Deleon Guerrero finished with a net

71 to come in third. Rick Kautz had the longest drive in hole No. 8, while Steve Balakrishna duplicated the feat in hole No. 10.

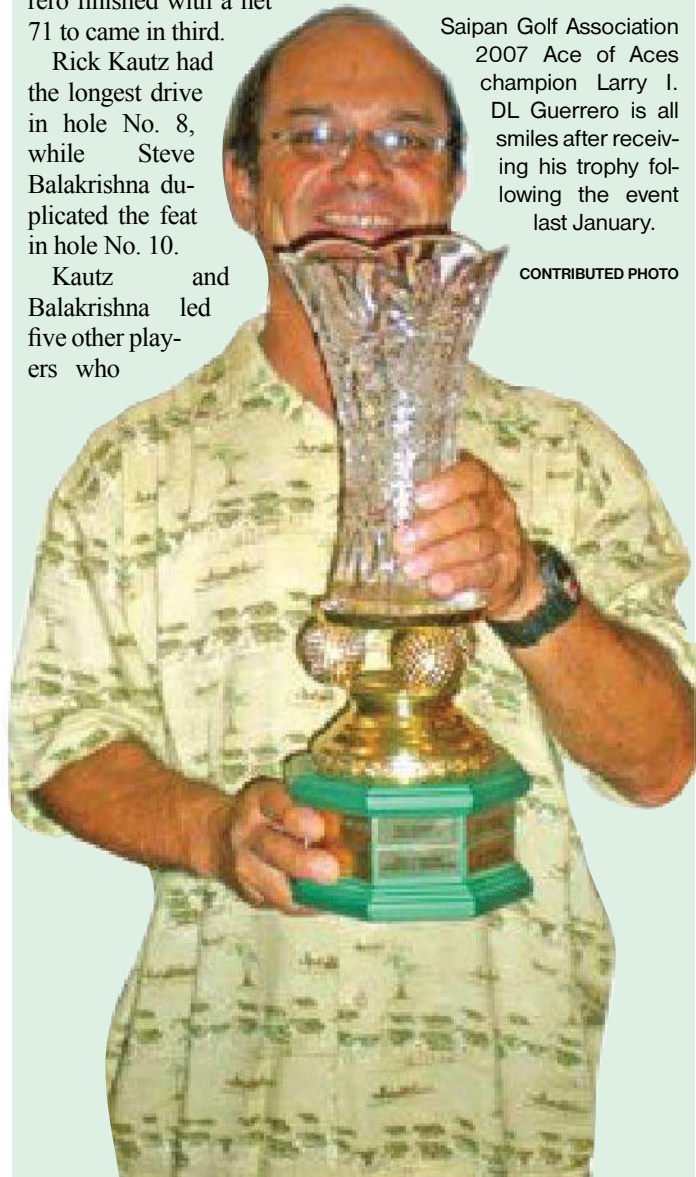
Kautz and Balakrishna led five other players who

sank a birdie each. Joining them are Tony Camacho, Jess Castro, Joe Demapan, Martin Sablan, and former Superior Court associate judge Ed Manibusan.

Other golfers that joined, with their scores in parenthesis, were Sablan, Kautz and Bob Magofna (73); Camacho and Das Krishnan (74); Balakrishna, Demapan, and Ray San Nicolas (75); Manibusan and John Cruz (76); Castro (77); Mario Fajardo (80); Matias Chargualaf (81); and Norbert Torres (86). (Jon Perez)

Saipan Golf Association 2007 Ace of Aces champion Larry I. DL Guerrero is all smiles after receiving his trophy following the event last January.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





7-on-7 women's football concludes tomorrow

The Inaugural Women's Football Committee is set to end its 7-on-7 league on Saturday with two games to be played at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tigers get season-high 7 runs in first win after seven losses

Detroit finally won, beating the Boston Red Sox 7-2 in the American League on Wednesday after scoring just 15 runs in losing its first seven games.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kaipat, Hustlers blank Twins

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Khobby Kaipat left the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field unscathed in leading the UMDA Hustlers I to a 17-0 shutout win over the Wells Fargo As Matuis Twins in Wednesday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League.

The win improved the Hustlers' record to 5-1 as they stayed close behind the 6-1 slates of the defending champion Saipan-Cell Patriots and the Happy Market Ol' Aces. Martha's Store Survivors, the San Antonio Dragons of PIC, and the Bank of Saipan Red Sox are tied in second place with similar 6-2 marks.

Kaipat pitched four hitless and scoreless innings with three strikeouts and seven walks to foil the birthday celebration of Twins' pitcher Ton Camacho.

Kaipat forced the Twins to ground out, fly out, or hit line drives that were fielded cleanly by his teammates.

A.J. Lizama led the Hustlers 14-for-29 batting going 4-for-4 at the plate with a three-run inside-the-



park home run in the Hustlers' eight-run first inning scoring spree.

He also scored twice with a double, a stolen base, and six RBIs.

Jesus Celes also went perfect going 3-for-3 with a first inning RBI double to go with his three runs while Kaipat went 2-for-3 with three runs, a double, and one RBI.

Raymund Saralu and Miko Abianta combined for 4-for-6 in batting with four runs and two doubles. Abianta also had an RBI and a stolen base.

Jesus Mafnas, 2-for-3, had a two-RBI double in the first inning and a two-RBI single in the second to go with his three runs and one stolen base.

Camacho got tagged with the loss as he struggled on the mound giving up 13 earned runs on 15 hits with three strikeouts and three walks.

Six of those hits are doubles while one is an inside-the-park homer.

JON PEREZ

Khobby Kaipat of the UMDA Hustlers I winds up a pitch in their game against the Wells Fargo As Matuis Twins on Wednesday in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

X-Terminators grab FMI caging lead



By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The Advance X-Terminators squeezed out a 115-112 win over Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Haus in Wednesday's action in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jon Lim, who together with Manuel Ajoste and Lerio Pagarao formed the Big 3 of coach Jesse Tudela's Southern Sonics, scored 12 of his team-high 25 points in the second half to help the X-Terminators secure their second win in as many games. The Foodmakers dropped to a 1-1 card.

Lim scored the needed points for the X-Terminators as he and veteran guard Andres "Jhun" Estolas kept the Foodmakers at bay especially in the third period when the Shirley's crew of coach Robert "Onyok" Tamondong made a brief run to momentarily grab the lead.

Estolas added 21 markers, while forward Edsel Mendoza and Pagarao also finished with 21 and 18 points for the Xterminators, which built a 60-49 halftime lead but allowed Shirley's-Blue Haus to comeback in the game setting up Lim's end-game heroics.

John Santos, who plays for Tinian in the Inter-Government league, led the Foodmakers with a season-high 39 points and received a lot of scoring.

See X-TERMINATORS on Page 42

Jon Perez
Ron Gamboa, left, of Advance X-Terminators collides with John Santos of Shirley's Coffee Shop-Blue Haus in their Wednesday night's game in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

'50-50 chance for Pacific Oceania against Oman'

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Former Pacific Oceania captain Jeff Race described as make-or-break the Islanders' 2008 Davis Cup Asia/

Oceania Zone Group II relegation tie against Oman, which begins today in the Middle East

country's scorching capital, Muscat.

The CNMI National Tennis Team

See 50-50 on Page 42



Pacific Oceania team captain Cyrille Mainguy, Michael Leong, Juan Sebastian Langton, Brett Baudinet, and Cyril Jacobo pose for a group shot after their practice session Monday in Muscat, Oman.

WWW.OCEANIATENNIS.COM

DCCA to defend title vs. NMC

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will defend its women's division

title in the Inter-government Softball League against Northern Marianas College-Proa in today's finals at 6pm at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The defending champions earned the second finals berth after escaping with a 14-13 win over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in Wednesday night's semifinal.

The Proa earned the first finals berth after a 9-7 decision against Commonwealth Health Center on Tuesday.

DCCA, which scored a 22-12 thrashing of Department of Finance on Monday, again relied on the clutch hitting of Bert Camacho to secure their back-to-

See DCCA on Page 42